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Hafa Adai!
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FLOYD MASGA
The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services said it responded to 65 brush fires in the last month, including this brush fire in Marpi last week.

DFEMS battled 65 fires in April

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services reports that in April alone, they battled 65 fires.

It is no secret that there has been a sharp increase in the number of fires reported in the last few weeks.

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PALACIOS ON HYATT ANNOUNCING CLOSURE

'Disappointing we weren't given notice'

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Gov. Arnold I. Palacios gives his comments about the impending closure of Hyatt Regency Saipan during yesterday's proclamation signing designating May as Tourism Month at the Governor's Office on Capital Hill.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The iconic Hyatt Regency Saipan shocked the CNMI last Monday when it announced its permanent closure this coming June 30. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, in response, said the administration was unaware this was coming and that it is disappointing they were not given notice.

See NOTICE on Page 4

Palacios requests Biden to initiate 902 talks

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has sent a letter to U.S. President Joseph R. Biden Jr. requesting consultations between the CNMI and U.S. governments pursuant to Section 902 of the Covenant.

Palacios said in his letter dated April 26, 2024, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* Tuesday night, said for this round of consultations, the CNMI proposes to engage with the

See BIDEN on Page 4

DPS: OAG Criminal division declined to prosecute Quitugua

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety says it has submitted its reports regarding the recent flag-burning incident to the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division, but the division declined to prosecute.

Last week, Attorney General Edward Manibusan stated that the reason charges have yet to be filed against Raymond Quitugua—the man who posted a video of himself burning the CNMI flag on social media—is because his office awaits DPS' reports before considering to move forward with prosecution.

In a statement from DPS yesterday, the department says

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INSIDE

LOCAL
Following a high-profile rescue of three mariners from Pikelot Atoll, the U.S. Coast Guard continued their vital service in the Pacific by conducting a critical medical evacuation and delivering more than 15,000 lbs. of essential drought relief supplies to several island communities from April 9-13, 2024.
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BUSINESS
Atkins Kroll, Inc. Guam, an Inchcape Company, celebrated its 110th anniversary on April 27, 2024, during a gala event at the Dusit Thani Guam Resort.
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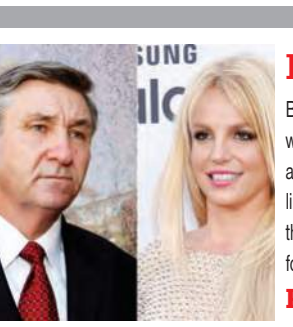

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Britney Spears and her father Jamie Spears will avoid what could have been a long, ugly and revealing trial with a settlement of the lingering issues in the court conservatorship that controlled her life and financial decisions for nearly 14 years.
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Local

SAFE Jamboree spreads more awareness about domestic, sexual violence

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Dozens of community members joined the Northern Marianas Coalition against Domestic and Sexual Violence for their SAFE Jamboree last Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School's soccer field in Chalan Piao.

With SAFE Jamboree standing for "Safe, Aware, Free, and Empower," the event was not just a day of fun activities for families, but was held to bring further awareness about sexual violence; while honoring and showing support to victims and survivors who endured it. The support was evident as individuals from the NMCADSV and other entities who participated in the event stayed under the scorching heat from 11am to 4pm.

When speaking to NMCADSV's Kiki Igitol Benjamin, she shared, "As an advocate and as a survivor, I have immense feelings of gratitude for the successful outcome of today's event. We captured so much glimmers of hope throughout the day from our committee members, partner agencies, and organizations for the engaging activity booths, talented performers, amazing volunteers, and community members. Having just the presence of everyone here is a profound testament that they are standing in solidarity to support victims and survivors, and the movement to end sexual violence in the CNMI."

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Saipan Humane Society's Ruby Ma, bottom right, interacts with a young guest at the SAFE Jamboree at Hopwood Middle School in Chalan Piao last Saturday.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Members of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. share information with participants during the SAFE Jamboree at Hopwood Middle School in Chalan Piao last Saturday.

This year's event was held in collaboration with the Autism Awareness/Acceptance Month Planning Committee, recognizing that April 2024 was both Sexual Awareness Month and Autism Awareness Month. The jamboree featured several fun games and activities, food and drink vendors, demonstrations and information booths from organizations like the Autism Society of the CNMI, Karidat Social Services-Victim Hotline, the Matansa Football Club, Micronesian Legal Services Corp., Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc., Northern Marianas Athletics, Office of Youth Affairs, Marianas High School's One Day at a Time, Saipan Humane Society, and the Northern Marianas College School of Education. The Department of Public Safety and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. also brought some staff with DPS bringing members from their Criminal Investigations Bureau, SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics), the K9 Unit, Boating Safety, Bike Patrol, Highway Safety, and Armory Unit. CHCC brought their Mobile Clinic, Non-Communicable Disease Program, MICAH-Family to Family Health Information Center, and Community Guidance Center. CNMI Public School System's Head Start/Early Head Start Program also took part in the event.

Benjamin shared that the SAFE Jamboree is the kind of fun family-friendly community event that also showcases community assets, resources, clubs, and organizations in the CNMI who believe in the importance of the movement.

"Sexual assault is a widespread issue that impacts every person in our community. It's so important for us to leverage Sexual Assault Awareness Month as an opportunity to engage and empower our community to learn and increase their awareness on the many ways they can help the movement to end sexual violence in the CNMI."

Benjamin said she'd like to extend a big thank you to all the sponsors of the event, namely Tan Siu Lin Fondation, Bridge Capital LLC, CHCC, Department of Corrections, DPS, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, CNMI Judiciary, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, PSS, Karidat, Kagman High School, Office of the Attorney General, Office of the Governor, Department of Commerce, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Northern Marianas Technical Institute, Micronesian Legal Services, NNMPASI, and all community members who showed up to make the event possible.

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Another 6 years national accreditation for PSS

PSS

The Public School System's school principals from Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, program managers, and program coordinators pose with Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, center.

The Public School System's national accreditation was reaffirmed for another six years by the global accreditation arm, Cognia Accreditation.

This year also marks the eleventh year for the school district to transition from a school-based to a multi-school, community-wide assessment, and review process.

During the School Year 2013-2014, PSS pioneered system-wide accreditation in the Pacific region. Cognia Accreditation's predecessor, AdvancEd, declared that PSS is the first district to achieve this feat among island entities and should serve as "a model in the (Pacific) region" for other entities in pursuing a system-wide review process.

Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho praised the entire PSS community and its stakeholders for this distinction.

Cognia Accreditation announced PSS reaffirmation (renewal) of accreditation for six years early this month. PSS' new six-year term of accreditation will start from May 2024 to June 2030. All 20 schools in the Public School System and the Head Start program received their certificate of accreditation with an expiration date of June 2030.

"This is a validation of our work over the years on how we hold ourselves to a much higher standard, and of the level of effectiveness of our PSS as an institution of learning. I extend my congratulations to everyone—from our policymakers to classroom teachers and school personnel, students, to central office staff, and all of our stakeholders and supporters—for this accomplishment," said Camacho.

He added, "What this means is we have to continue the work that we do, including strategies that help and connect our children and provide optimum and quality learning opportunities."

According to Camacho, Cognia Accreditation's reaffirmation of PSS' accreditation "provides a nationally recognized mark of quality for our school district."

"Being able to maintain this distinction for 11 years demonstrates to our community our commitment to excellence, our openness to review and feedback, and our desire to be the best we can be on behalf of the students we serve," the education chief added.

Throughout its more than 125 years of service, Cognia, formerly AdvancED, has globally recognized schools that meet rigorous standards focused on productive learning environments, equitable resource allocation for the needs of learners, and effective leadership. Earning accreditation from the Cognia Global Accreditation Commission is a recognition that the school meets Cognia Performance Standards and maintains a commitment to continuous improvement. To earn Cognia accreditation, a school also must implement a continuous process of improvement and submit to external review. Schools in good standing can maintain their accreditation for a six-year term.

'High standards'

"The CNMI Public School System has demonstrated that it has continually met high standards and made progress on key indicators that impact student learning. Maintaining their accredited status for 25 years highlights a commitment to the quality and improvement of the education provided," said Dr. Mark A. Elgart, president and CEO of Cognia.

Cognia Accreditation is a rigorous process.

Cognia said the process in re-evaluating PSS was guided by evidence and was centered on four areas or "Key Characteristics" : 1) culture of learning; 2) leadership for learning; 3) engagement of learning, and 4) growth in learning.

"The findings are aligned to research-based criteria designed to improve student learning and organizational effectiveness," said Elgart.

In PSS' "Culture of Learning," Cognia said "learning can be best seen through the system's holistic approach towards learning and its alignment to the vision, mission, and values of the CNMI Public School System."

Cognia said interviews and documentation indicate that "stakeholders at various levels are involved, engaged, and felt that they were able to contribute to the process".

"It was clear from interviews that the whole child and the learner's wellbeing are at the heart of the (CNMI PSS) and are the principles that guide the system," Cognia said. "(S)tudents consistently said throughout the interviews that teachers, counselors, leaders, and community members were both supportive and caring about their academics as well as their non-academic needs and interests," the accreditation findings said.

In the "Leadership of Learning" area for PSS, Cognia took particular notice of how the CNMI Board of Education "serve the citizens of the CNMI Public School System well" by understanding their roles and responsibilities and ensuring that all policies of the district are regularly updated and communicated.

"The board members are dedicated and hardworking community members who hold themselves accountable to the stakeholders of (the CNMI PSS)," Cognia said.

In the third evaluation criteria, "Engagement of Learning," Cognia pointed out that, based on interviews and documentation, it found evidence that "engagement of learning is centered on student's engagement and the rigor to challenge learners' abilities through caring, family-oriented staff committed to learner success."

"In interviews with students and staff, the team observed that instruction was highly engaging, and expectations were rigorous. Engagement at these levels leads learners to succeed in many different curricula they chose," the findings said.

The fourth review area, "Growth in Learning" of PSS, Cognia said the school district "best exemplified this through diverse, thorough, and comprehensive set of program offerings…to further its learners' and staff's wellbeing."

In return, the program offering provides "a plethora of data sets and affords leaders to have a variety of data sources to make decisions for the wellbeing of learners and their staff."

"Teacher and student interviews confirmed that leaders regularly demonstrate this and can provide insightful data to their teams to support their staff in making impactful decisions for learners," Cognia affirmed in its findings.

History

PSS began looking at the accreditation process as a way to improve all public schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota nearly 30 years ago.

In 1994, it was Marianas High School that became the first school to get accreditation, and it was through the Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

The CNMI Board of Education eventually decided to ask WASC to also review all other public schools in the CNMI.

By 1997, WASC assessment included both the public school's physical facilities and curriculum.

Before, the accreditation was just descriptive. It just describes what WASC saw in the school that it visited.

But since 1997, WASC has been looking into what the students are really learning, focusing on learning and improvements and where school wants to go from there.

This continued on until 2013-2014, when PSS made a giant leap by pushing for system-wide/district-wide accreditation, by partnering with AdvancED, which eventually became Cognia.

PSS became the first in the Pacific region to receive a full six-year accreditation in its first year in 2014—and, once again, the first school district in the Pacific to achieve a national accreditation reaffirmation, in 2024. ***(PR)***

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ARTICLES OF DISSOLUTION of

CAPITAL SAIPAN CORP., a CNMI corporation. ("Corporation")
DOES HEREBY CERTIFY: CAPITAL SAIPAN CORP.

First: That dissolution has been authorized by the Corporation effectively on April 30, 2024.

Second: That dissolution has been authorized in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 14, Subchapter A, section 14.02 of the CNMI Corporation Regulations

Third: That process may be served against the Corporation at the following address: PMB 538 BOX 10003 Saipan, MP 96950

Fourth: That a resolution proposing dissolution has been adopted and approved by the majority of the shareholders.

Fifth: That NUMBER votes can be cast and two votes were cast in favor of this dissolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, said Capital Saipan Corporation has caused this Articles of Dissolution to be signed by Tengyi Z. Williams, its secretary, this 30th day of April, 2024.

/s/ Tengyi Z. Williams
Secretary

DeLeon Guerrero says Hyatt's closure very concerning

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) said yesterday that Hyatt Regency Saipan's closure announcement is very concerning, while House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) stated this will definitely impact CNMI's economy.

In response to Saipan Tribune's request for comment about Hyatt's announcement, DeLeon Guerrero said the Hyatt brand name adds value to the CNMI as a destination.

DeLeon Guerrero said with the closure announcement it certainly does have a negative effect on the CNMI destination and economy that is reliant on tourism revenue.

The Senate president said corresponding diminishing revenues will be felt on the Gross Revenue Tax, payroll taxes, Hotel Occupancy Tax revenue, and programs and services that share in these tourism revenues.

She noted that 146 Hyatt employees will be affected.

» Villagomez says Hyatt's closure will definitely impact CNMI economy

Villagomez, on the other hand, said a part of him was not surprised given how the CNMI's economy has been these past few years.

"I just didn't expect it to be this soon," Villagomez said.

Kobe Portopia Hotel Corp., which owns the Hyatt Regency Saipan, signed with the Department of Public Lands a new 40-year land lease on Oct. 8, 2021. Kobe Portopia reportedly set aside $45 million for the construction and renovation of Hyatt.

Villagomez said he was surprised because Hyatt seemed very optimistic and confident when the land lease was approved.

"The Hyatt brand has been a part of our economic history for as long as I can remember," Villagomez pointed out.

Hyatt made the shocking news on Monday that it will permanently cease operations on June 30, 2024.

NOTICE

From page 1

Yesterday, during a proclamation signing in celebration of Tourism Month, Palacios addressed the elephant in the room which was Hyatt's unforeseen decision to leave the CNMI after over four decades.

"In the last 24 hours, something unfortunate happened, the iconic Hyatt Regency Saipan brand has announced that it will be leaving our shores. We were not aware of this, to be clear, until late Monday evening. We were all taken by surprise by this news from Hyatt," he said.

Palacios said the announcement came as a shock as Hyatt was just given a 40-year extension on their long-term lease just two years ago.

"This is very unfortunate. We're disappointed and saddened at the same time. Unfortunately (and disappointingly), to be clear, we have not gotten much information from Hyatt local management. The only thing I've gotten, which was directed to the Department of Public Lands and not to the Governor's Office, was that [Hyatt's] plan is to completely close down and they've already informed their employees," Palacios said.

Being we're in this situation now, Palacios said the administration is looking at everything it can do to protect the property and to make sure that the employees are taken care of.

"I've directed Department of Labor Secretary Leila Staffler to look into what she needs to do to make sure [Hyatt's] employees remain employed in the same industry or wherever else they can be employed. Everything else we have to take a look at, specifically legalities and potential opportunities out there, we're looking into. We're trying our best to see if Hyatt wishes to discuss anything, but the attorney general and I are [also] sitting down with legal and DPL to see what are the [other] possible routes going forward," he said.

"This is challenging. The lieutenant governor and I were not aware, at all. I know that it is very difficult. I've spent hours thinking about this, but Hyatt made a corporate decision and now we need to figure out what the Commonwealth will do and what is the options for the Commonwealth. Those have to be explored extensively, deliberately," Palacios added.

HANMI says closure 'worrisome'

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands has also released its statement on Hyatt's recent closure announcement.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

DFEMS

From page 1

However, to give a clear picture, DFEMS reports that the department has responded to 65 brush fires in the last month.

The most recent fire was reported just last Monday, April 29, at Talafofo where DFEMS managed to contain a brush fire just before it reached a nearby home.

According to spokesperson and firefighter Rob Mojica—the firefighter who managed to fight off the Talafofo fire before it reached the home—DFEMs received the call regarding the Talafofo fire at around 11:33am last Monday morning.

Mojica explained that when he got to the scene where the fire was reported, he observed that the fire was pushing towards a nearby home so he immediately went over to check on the family.

Mojica said at the home, he warned the family of the spreading fire and was able to make it to the back of the property where he noticed that it had spread to the brushes just behind the home.

Fortunately, he managed to act quickly—noting that the fire engine was still enroute—fighting off the fire with a garden hose before it devastated the family's home.

Mojica noted that the fire was contained at around 1pm.

Aside from the Talafofo Fire, the other notable fires fought this month were the Wireless Ridge, Tanapag, and San Roque mountainside fires that engulfed acres of land with some even burning for days.

Mojica advises community members who live in areas affected by burhs fires to try and keep vegetation around their homes to a minimum if possible.

"Clear away dead debris, piles of leaves, anything that can burn easily or help with the spread," he said.

Recently, DFEMS issued a suspension of all burning permits and will not be issuing any for the meantime as the Marianas is experiencing extreme drought.

OAG

From page 1

they submitted their report but the OAG declined to prosecute.

"We want to inform you that we have received a response from the Office of the Attorney General-Criminal Division regarding DPS case # 24-002268 that was stamped received on April 11, 2024, in regards to the burning of a CNMI flag by an individua (namely Raymond Quitugua). The Criminal Division has declined to prosecute the case. The decision was made based on the facts and circumstances surrounding the incident. Should you need more information on this matter, please contact the Attorney General-Criminal Division at (670)237-7600," DPS.

In a previous interview with Manibusan, he explained that charges are filed based on probable cause and legal statutes.

The CNMI Constitution, for example, considers the burning of the CNMI flag a crime punishable by a fine or even jail time. However, the first amendment to the U.S Constitution protects the right of an individual to burn flags as a form of protest.

"We file charges based on whether or not there's probable cause to believe that a crime has been committed. We look at the stature, we look at the laws, and if we believe that there are defenses and we think that those defenses will prevail, we may consider filing any charges," he said.

"I think the issue would be 'if I have the First Amendment right to protest.' You've seen news articles and you've seen press reports and people all over the world burning flags. So, was this a sign of protest? Is that something that we will consider in filing final charges? Yes, that's one of the issues," Manibusan added.

According to a previous article on *Saipan Tribune*, Quitugua said he believes the true CNMI flag was the initial design presented back in the 1970s that featured a latte stone with a star in the front of it on a field of blue.

He claims this flag accurately represents the indigenous people of the CNMI which he believes is the Chamorro community (not including the Carolinian community).

Quitugua added that he burned the flag as a form of protest, and he intends to take the issue to the Judiciary.

Many have raised concerns and have expressed their disagreement with Quitugua's actions including Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lino Olopai (a renowned advocate for the indigenous traditions of the CNMI as well as one of the champions that fought for today's CNMI flag design back in the 1970.)

DPL gets good financial audit report

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands received a good audit report from independent auditor Burger Comer & Associates which audited DPL's Fiscal Year 2021 financial report.

Burger Comer & Associates recently informed DPL Secretary Teresita A. Santos that in their opinion, DPL's financial statements for FY 2021 financial report present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of the DPL as of Sept. 30, 2021.

Burger Comer said the results of DPL's operations for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S.

Santos presented to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios last week Burger Comer's independent audit report to satisfy the requirements of the law requiring DPL to undergo an independent audit annually.

Santos said DPL continues to make tremendous progress in addressing audit issues and once again given an unqualified financial audit, as well as an unqualified opinion for the sixth time in a row.

"This is yet another remarkable milestone for DPL, as well as a true testament of your administration and DPL's commitment to working diligently, upholding accountability and ensuring transparency," the secretary told Palacios in her memorandum.

Burger Comer also stated in its report submitted to Santos that the CNMI Constitution requires that all revenues received by DPL in excess of the amount necessary to meet reasonable expenses of administration and management, land surveying, homestead development, and any other expenses reasonably necessary for the accomplishment of its functions, must be transferred to the Marianas Public Land Trust.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

BIDEN

From page 1

U.S. government on three priority issues: direct financial assistance under Section 702 of the Covenant, tourism and transportation infrastructure, and access to skilled labor.

The governor said the CNMI looks forward to the U.S. appointing a special representative so that the 902 consultation process can begin.

"My administration is ready to work with you and your special representative in furtherance of our mutual goal to improve the lives of the people of the Northern Marianas, consistent with our Covenant," Palacios told Biden.

The Covenant provides that the U.S. and CNMI governments for the 902 talks every 10 years—if either government calls for it to consult on issues affecting their relationship.

On direct financial assistance, the governor said Section 701 of the Covenant reflects the aspirations of the people of the CNMI to join the American political family, and the commitment of the U.S. to assist the Commonwealth government in providing a progressively higher standard of living for its citizens.

He said the primary vehicle for achieving this commitment was Section 702, which once provided nearly $28 million annually in direct financial assistance to the CNMI government for economic development.

Palacios said unfortunately, U.S. Public Law 104-134 redistributed funds intended for the Commonwealth to other insular jurisdictions.

He said fully restoring 702 funds to the CNMI and adjusting for inflation would go a long way toward shoring up public services and providing relief to economically distressed citizens and small businesses today.

The governor said the CNMI urgently seeks direct and expanded financial assistance from the U.S. government, and flexibility to apply those funds to capital improvements, government operations, and economic relief programs.

On tourism and transportation infrastructure, Palacios said early on in his administration, he announced that the CNMI would pivot away from overreliance on tourism and investment from the People's Republic of China to more sustainable markets in allied democratic jurisdictions like Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the Republic of China (Taiwan).

"We need the support of our federal partners to accomplish this pivot," Palacios said.

He said CNMI's efforts to revitalize the economy and especially the tourism industry in the post-COVID 19 era, however, are hampered by inadequate infrastructure at airports and seaports, and limited air and freight service to and from the islands.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

USCG conducts medical evacuation, delivers drought relief in FSM

YAP, Federated States of Micronesia—Following a high-profile rescue of three mariners from Pikelot Atoll, the U.S. Coast Guard, operating through the USCGC *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140) and coordinated by U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam with U.S. Embassy and USAID partners, continued their vital service in the Pacific by conducting a critical medical evacuation and delivering more than 15,000 lbs. of essential drought relief supplies to several island communities from April 9-13, 2024.

"This past week, the crew demonstrated profound capability and compassion," said Lt. Ray Cerrato, commanding officer of the *Oliver Henry*. "The little moments of true empathy—from CS1 Pablo, our ship's cook and a certified EMT, who cared for the boy during our overnight transit, to GM2 and MKC, who gave up their own sleeping quarters so that the boy's parents could rest—really reflect the deep humanity and commitment of our team. It's personal, and they make these sacrifices without second thoughts. That is the true spirit of the Coast Guard."

USCG

The crew of USCGC *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140) delivers drought relief supplies, reverse osmosis systems, and technicians to Woleai, Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia, on April 12, 2024, in support of a request from the U.S. Embassy, in partnership with USAID and the International Organization for Migration.

The crew of USCGC *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140) takes a moment for a photo as they deliver drought relief supplies, reverse osmosis systems, and technicians to Woleai, Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia, on April 12, 2024, in support of a request from the U.S. Embassy, in partnership with USAID and the International Organization for Migration.

USCG

Petty Officer 1st Class Joshua Pablo, an EMT with the crew of USCGC *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140), discusses the condition of an injured 9-year-old boy with local medical personnel in Woleai after the ship's crew transferred him and his parents from Satawal to Woleai for further transport aboard a Pacific Mission Aviation flight to a higher level of medical care in Yap.

Drought relief efforts

From April 10 to 13, the USCGC *Oliver Henry* delivered drought relief supplies, including water, food, and reverse osmosis systems, to four outer island communities: Satawal, Woleai, Fais, and Ulithi, in a 1,200 nautical mile round trip across Yap State in FSM. This mission supported a request from the U.S. Embassy and in partnership with USAID and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), highlighting the U.S. commitment to providing essential aid and enhancing resilience against natural disasters in FSM.

"We take immense pride in our ability to execute complex operations and work effectively with our partners, as well as in bringing crucial water and supplies to remote communities affected by severe drought," said Cerrato. "The good news is, at pretty much all the islands we just visited it either started to rain as we were leaving, or it's rained in the past 48 hours."

Annual rainfall in Yap is around 121 inches (3,090 mm). Northeast tradewinds blow from November to May, resulting in less rain and lower humidity during these months. The National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office in Guam states extreme drought conditions persist across the Federated States of Micronesia and below-normal rainfall is still expected in the long-term for much of Yap State and Palau.

USCG

The crew of USCGC *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140) arrive to Woleai, Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia, on April 12, 2024, with an injured 9-year-old boy and his parents for further transport aboard a Pacific Mission Aviation flight to a higher level of medical care in Yap.

Medical evacuation

During the ongoing drought relief mission, the crew was again called to action on April 11 to assist a 9-year-old boy from Satawal who suffered a serious head injury in a fall from a tree. The medical evacuation occurred promptly, with the boy, accompanied by his parents and the cutter's EMT, being transported to Woleai Atoll for enhanced care. Approximately 13 hours after boarding the USCGC *Oliver Henry*, the crew launched the small boat, and the guests from Satawal were transferred ashore at Woleai to board a Yap State government-chartered flight for further transport to a higher level of medical care in Yap.

"Search and Rescue is our no-fail mission, and the successful outcomes of these recent operations in Micronesia—rescuing stranded mariners and conducting a critical medical evacuation—prove this point. Beyond these life-saving actions, our commitment extends to addressing humanitarian challenges, many exacerbated by climate issues. Working in concert with partners like the U.S. Embassies, local governments, USAID, and IOM, each operation not only reinforces our readiness and resolve to save lives and safeguard our Pacific communities but also demonstrates our dedication to cooperation, providing comprehensive support in the face of diverse challenges," said Capt. Nicholas Simmons, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam.

About US Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam

U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam plays a critical role in promoting maritime safety, security, and environmental stewardship in the Pacific. The sector's capabilities are integral to executing a wide range of Coast Guard missions, from protecting the maritime economy and the environment to defending maritime borders and saving those in peril. ***(PR)***

UOG hosts May workshops for caregivers of persons with dementia

The University of Guam's Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program is offering an opportunity for caregivers of persons with dementia to participate in an online training and certification program called CARES Dementia 5-Step Method. This award-winning program will teach caregivers the fundamentals of providing person-centered dementia care including understanding how thinking skills are impacted by dementia, how changes in thinking impact behavior, and strategies for communicating with persons who have dementia.

» Online training will feature CARES Dementia 5-Step Method

The training program includes four modules: (1) Meet Clara Jones; (2) Introduction to Dementia; (3) Understanding Behavior as Communication; and (4) The CARES Approach.

Participants who complete all 4 modules will receive a certificate of completion and will be eligible for CARES Dementia Certification.

Upcoming modules in May:

Module 1: Meet Clara Jones

- 6pm to 8pm, Wednesday, May 1, or
- 10am to noon, Saturday, May 4

No support groups scheduled for Wednesday, May 8 and Saturday, May 11 in preparation for G/M GWEP's Dementia Care Conference (May 11)

Module 2: Introduction to Dementia

- 6pm to 8pm, Wednesday, May 15 or
- 10am to noon, Saturday, May 18

Module 3: Understanding Behavior as Communication

- 6pm to 8pm, Wednesday, May 22, or
- 10am to noon, Saturday, May 25

Module 4: The CARES® Approach

- 6pm to 8pm, Wednesday, May 29 or
- 10am to noon, Saturday, June 1

Participants can attend the Wednesday or Saturday sessions using the following Zoom links:

- Wednesday sessions: https://zoom.us/j/92072878067
- Saturday sessions: https://zoom.us/j/91243370958

Ongoing dementia support groups

These sessions are part of the ongoing online support groups for family caregivers of persons with dementia being conducted by the Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program of the UOG School of Health. The support group sessions are held on Zoom on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings year-round. The sessions are free of charge to partners, family members, and other caregivers of persons with dementia who have ties to Guam and the Micronesian region.

For more information, contact:

- Dr. Iain Twaddle, Nikolas Gutierrez, Maree Saloma, or Camille Maestrecampo Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program Telehealth Geriatric Support Services University of Guam

Tel: (671) 735-2883

Email: gwep.tgss@triton.uog.edu

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Only dictators have immunity from criminal acts while in power

It seems unlikely that the Supreme Court will embrace Donald Trump's outrageous claim that as a former president he enjoys absolute immunity from criminal prosecution for actions that he allegedly took to overturn the 2020 election and cling to power. This is a relief. To do otherwise would allow the office to become, as Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson put it, "the seat of criminal activity in this country."

Ominously, however, some conservative justices during Thursday's oral argument expressed exaggerated concerns about prosecuting former presidents. That raises the possibility that the case might be returned to the lower courts for a determination of which of Trump's alleged actions constituted "official acts," a category Trump's lawyers have defined broadly.

Such a muddled outcome would be a mistake, and not only because it would make it less likely that Trump would be put on trial before the November election. If the justices focus on the allegations against Trump, they can and should rule there should be no protection for criminal conduct just because it is connected in some way to the president's official duties.

Understandably, some questions focused on the future implications of a ruling denying Trump immunity. For example, Justice Neil M. Gorsuch expressed a concern about "future uses of the criminal law to target political opponents based on accusations about their motives." He noted that the court would be "writing a rule for the ages."

Of course, the justices should think about the consequences of their decisions. But the primary focus in this case should be on whether Trump is entitled to immunity for the specific actions he allegedly took in an attempt to overturn the election.

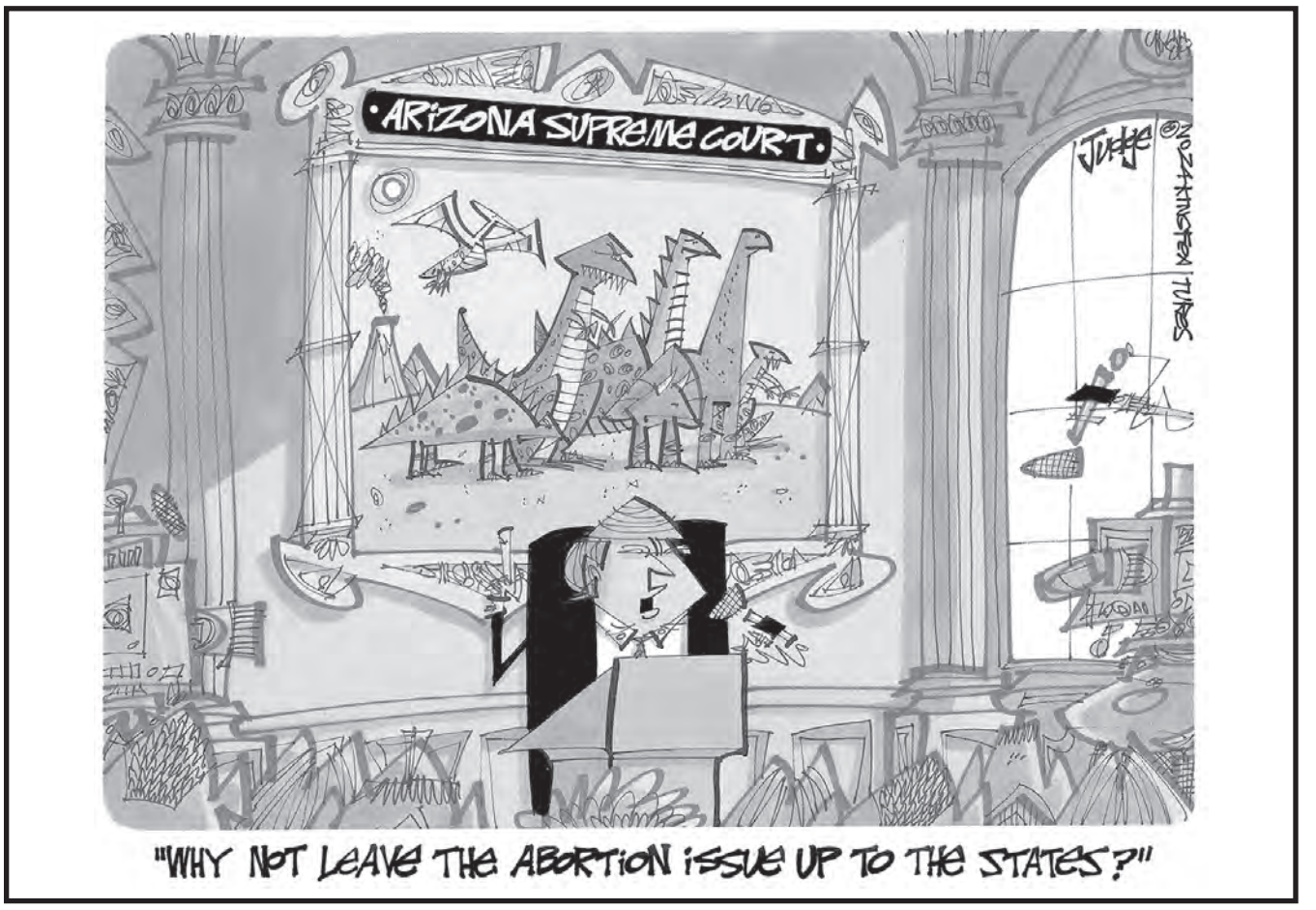
The answer should be no. Allowing the most powerful person in the nation, if not the world, to operate without any fear of prosecution for, say, ordering the murder of a political opponent or throwing out election results is a recipe for a dictatorship.

Under questioning from Justice Amy Coney Barrett, Trump's lawyer, John Sauer, conceded that some of the actions Trump allegedly took were private acts. But even supposedly "official" acts — such as Trump's alleged effort to enlist the Justice Department in an attempt to overturn the election — were allegedly part of what former Deputy Solicitor General Michael Dreeben, representing the government, called an "integrated conspiracy," in which the former president allegedly used his official powers and his private conduct to try to subvert the election.

Dreeben discussed the distinction between acts a president seeking reelection takes as an "officeholder" and those he takes as an "office-seeker. (Sauer said he accepted the distinction between a president acting as president versus acting as a candidate.)

The court should recognize that a president can be acting as an "office-seeker"—or, in Trump's case, someone seeking to hold on to an office after losing an election—even when

See ONLY on Page 7



"WHY NOT LEAVE THE ABORTION ISSUE UP TO THE STATES?"

That scowl. The gag order. Frightened jurors. Who's on trial, a former president or a mob boss?

By JACKIE CALMES
Los Angeles Times

Jackie Calmes is an opinion columnist for the Los Angeles Times *in Washington, D.C.*

Donald Trump has fussed about many things during his criminal trial in Manhattan: the judge, prosecutors, their relatives, witnesses, jurors and of course the media, for reporting on the sparse crowds outside.

Yet Trump of all people knows that his fellow New Yorkers are proudly blasé about celebrity goings-on. It shouldn't be surprising that not much of a crowd forms at the courthouse where the Don has been in the dock. After all, if you've seen one trial of a mob boss in Gotham, you've seen 'em all.

And Trump's trial — where he's charged with fraudulently covering up pre-election hush money payments to Stormy Daniels in 2016, to keep voters in the dark about their alleged tryst— resembles nothing so much as a prosecution of yet another organized crime figure, even if it is, in fact, unprecedented: The first criminal case against a former U.S. president in history.

Lest anyone think the quick-to-complain Trump might grouse about being likened to gangsters, he draws the parallel himself, repeatedly.

"I've been indicted more than Alphonse Capone," Trump boasted at a conservative conference in February. (Fact check: False, but he's close.) He regularly, and admiringly, compares himself to ol' "Scarface" at MAGA rallies. "He was seriously tough, right?" tough-guy Trump said to Iowa rally-goers in October. Last year on social media, he called Capone "the late great gangster." Great?

The shtick might be funny if what underlies it weren't so serious. As we head into the third week of the People of New York State vs. Donald J. Trump in that dingy courthouse so far removed from the Don's usual gilt opulence, it's downright disturbing to contemplate the similarities between his trial and that of a mob boss.

How can it be that this man is tied or ahead of President Biden in the polls? I remain confident Trump will pay a political price in time, as the sordidness of all this sinks in.

Perhaps the most distressing of the mob comparisons is this: The safety of jurors is a real concern. Their identities are secret to protect against intimidation or harm, and one juror was dismissed after confessing her fear. Former federal prosecutor Joyce Vance posted on X that she's seen such trepidation for jurors only "in a case involving violent organized crime."

And it's not the first time for Trump. The jurors who in January found that he defamed writer E. Jean Carroll after she successfully sued him for sexual assault, also had their identities withheld. After that civil trial, federal Judge Lewis A. Kaplan warned them, "My advice to you is that you never disclose that you were on this jury." Chilling.

Former prosecutor and FBI general counsel Andrew Weissmann noted on MSNBC that he'd last heard a judge similarly caution some jurors decades ago, after they convicted Genovese crime family boss Vincent Gigante. "It is remarkable," he added, " that that same admonition was said with respect to somebody who was the president of the United States."

It's tragic, actually. Trump once swore to uphold the rule of law; now he's making a mockery of it and putting innocents and civil servants at risk.

There's also worry for witnesses. Prosecutors won't share their witness list with Trump's defense team, an act that's typically routine.

"Mr. Trump has been tweeting about the witnesses. We're not telling them who the witnesses are," prosecutor Joshua Steinglass said. "I can't fault them for that," Judge Juan M. Merchan said, dismissing the appeals of Trump lawyer Todd Blanche.

Trump's tweets earned him a gag order from Merchan against attacking witnesses as well as prosecutors, court staff and the judge's and Dist. Atty. Alvin Bragg's families. Such gags are rare, except of course in trials of boorish mobsters.

The judge and prosecutors fear Trump will intimidate those he's targeted, and perhaps spur some unhinged supporter to violence. (It's not as if there is no precedent for that!) The threats Trump stokes also explain much of the heavy security around the courthouse.

A final mob connection: Trump's demeanor in court—the practiced scowls captured in photos and courtroom sketches, and his wise-guy mutterings reported by journalists in the room. His model, Trump told biographer-turned-critic Tim O'Brien, is none other than the murderous mafioso John Gotti. "The thing he respected about Gotti," O'Brien told MSNBC, "was that he … sat there in court and he looked at the jurors and he looked at the judge with a big F-U on his face."

Trump's mob modeling goes way back. His former lawyer Michael Cohen, a key witness against him, said Trump for de-

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Making tourism our business: Cultivating culinary tourism

By CHRISTOPHER A. CONCEPCION
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Christopher A. Concepcion is the managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

A work colleague recently struck up a conversation with a stranger at a Texas airport. Come to find out, the man had visited Saipan about 20 years when serving in the military. What did he remember most, my friend had asked. The food, he said. Specifically, the island barbecue, and even more specifically, the sauce.

Just the thought of "finadene" sauce with its balance of salty, sour, and spicy is enough to make most of our mouths water. And increasingly, travelers are looking for that unique sense of place that comes with eating the cuisine of a specific destination. This is what is known as gourmet or culinary travel. And this is something our intercultural Marianas can offer in spades.

UN Tourism (formerly, the United National World Tourism Organization) recognizes that "gastronomy and wine tourism contribute to promoting and branding destinations, maintaining and preserving local traditions and diversities, and harnessing and rewarding authenticity."

I had mentioned in this article series that a few years ago, the Marianas Visitors Authority conducted an exit survey of visitors leaving the islands. One of the interesting results coming out of that survey was a desire of many our visitors to have "gourmet" experiences when visiting the Marianas. Sure, they want to have some of the same comfort food they are familiar with, but more and more, today's traveler is ready for a gastronomic adventure.

This information points to an economic opportunity for local businesses to either promote their unique culinary delights to visitors, produce more local-inspired food offerings, come up with record breaking food challenges, devise an extremely unique dish that attracts worldwide attention, or even create a gourmet tour highlighting the best of what our islands have to offer at various restaurants. Imagine what that might look like! Every day, an exploration of different cultures and dishes. And barbecued fish, roasted breadfruit, fresh caught venison, coco mango, and fresh coconut or sugar cane juice might be a highlight of that tour. As a destination, we offer our visitors a taste of that at many of our festivals. We are also pleased to see more hotels and restaurants adding traditional Chamorro and Carolinian dishes to their menus or incorporating fusion items inspired by those culinary heritages. But we need more. This makes good business sense for tourism, as it incorporates both the promotion of local culture and increased sustainability in sourcing local food products.

We should also consider that culinary tourism is more than just consuming food. Some travelers are also interested in cooking, visiting a farm or a farmer's market, and attending festivals dedicated to food and drinks. This is one of the reasons the Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival was created 25 years ago. Since its inception, the festival has continued to grow in both size and popularity through the years, breaking revenue records in recent years. During May Tourism Month, the MVA invites you to enjoy our most highly anticipated annual signature event, known to many as simply "Taste." Held every Saturday night beginning at 5pm at American Memorial Park, this year's festival will feature 29 food and drink vendors serving up the best of many cultures living in the Marianas. From local barbecue with "finadene" to the most popular international dishes, everyone should be able find something to satisfy their appetites at Taste. On top of that, the Subway Sandwich Challenge will—well, challenge—competitors to be the first to finish five footlong Subway sandwiches on May 4. From there, the Top 3 finishers will move on to the Oh My Grill (OMG) International Food Challenge on May 11, challenging professional competitive eater Sachiyo Masubuchi from Japan and Sang Hyuk Kwon from Korea to finish an entire Marianas-style BBQ platter within one hour, with the first finisher walking away with $1,000 cash. On May 18, the Marianas Chefs Competition will challenge 10 chefs to prepare the best beef rib eye steak dish within an hour, incorporating all local produce provided in a mystery box. And on the final night of May 25, the HANMI-NMTech Pastry Chef Competition will feature one of our favorite local desserts—lantiyas.

And speaking of NMTech, we are especially pleased with the institute's work to train more local chefs through their culinary program. Not only is food & beverage one of the most in-demand jobs in our tourism industry, but with their unique culinary cultures and heritage, these new chefs have the potential to bring more "local" food and fusion dishes into our restaurants. Some of them may even become our Marianas culinary ambassadors as they pursue careers off-island.

Culinary tourism starts with first knowing the food of our culture, recognizing its value, and continuing to make it a part of our homes, our families, and—more and more—our tourism industry.

SCOWL

From page 6

cades ran his family company "much like a mobster would do." Cohen, a self-described consigliere, admits to intimidating people and lying on Trump's behalf. "He doesn't give you orders," Cohen told Congress in 2019. "He speaks in a code, and I understand the code." Trump responded to Cohen's testimony in mob-speak, natch, tweeting that his former lawyer was "a rat."

The trial's first witness, former National Enquirer publisher David Pecker, testified last week about his cooperation with Trump in 2016 to "catch and kill" prurient Trump stories before that year's election. He repeatedly described Cohen warning him that "the boss" would be angry if Pecker didn't hold up his end of the bargain.

The mob mentality gives a particularly clear perspective on Trump's claim earlier in 2016: "I could stand in the middle of Fifth Avenue and shoot somebody and I wouldn't lose any voters." Eight years later, he's on trial for something less than murder, yet the upshot is the same: He's banking that his voters don't care.

He's almost certainly right about most if not all of them. But Trump needs more than just his MAGA loyalists to win. Let's hope this trial, whatever the outcome, leaves everyone else determined not to see a godfather in the White House again.

ONLY

From page 6

his official duties are involved. Dreeben reminded the justices that one of the acts that put former President Richard Nixon in jeopardy was his attempt to have the Central Intelligence Agency shut down the FBI's Watergate investigation. That is an apt analogy to the allegation that Trump tried to have the Justice Department abet his attempt to subvert democracy.

The court should hand down a decision that would allow Trump's trial to proceed—and it should do so quickly. The court has taken far too much time in dealing with Trump's audacious immunity claim already, rejecting a plea by special counsel Jack Smith last year to consider the issue before an appeals court acted and scheduling oral argument on the last day of such proceedings.

It would be wrong to think of an expeditious ruling in this case as an anti-Trump gesture; a ruling that allowed Trump to go on trial before the election could politically benefit the former president if he were acquitted. The real beneficiaries of a trial before November would be the voters, who deserve to know whether a candidate for the nation's highest office has been found innocent or guilty by a jury.

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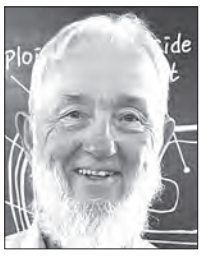
NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

'There are places I remember'

LITERARY NOOK
By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. Joey is the Poet Laureate of Tinian, celebrating 40 years in the CNMI.



"There are places I'll remember all my life, though some have changed, Some forever, not for better, some have gone and some remain…"

—Excerpted lyrics from the Beatles song, 'In My Life' released in 1965.

I rarely respond to trolls online but three comments on one of my last weekly submissions to the Literary Nook during National Poetry Month persuaded me.

One troll called me a "white tyrant," another suggestion was in a two-word sentence, "Do Joey" implying I should write about myself. The writer must have not read my T.O.A.S.T—Telling Old Age Senescent Tales—which has become Senescent Sonnets over the past few years. In that ongoing series I address my problems with obesity, alcohol, and the onset of senescence and dementia in a humorous and self-deprecating manner. A third comment was "no one in his hometown has ever heard of him." I don't understand the "white tyrant" slur. It sounds like a MAGA-based transactional insult ala 45. I'm sure the writer, who like most online trolls disguises his identity, never read one of my multiple entries for the past two years during Black Poetry Month. Or knew that I read poetry regularly at a Black community "Poet's Corner" in Las Vegas. The only other white reader at these poetry jams was an elderly blind Christian poet. About not being known in my hometown? During high school and college years in the late '60s and '70s I performed and sang with my jug band at nearby Alfred University with jazz great Charles Lloyd, at community centers in NY, and folk music clubs on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. I read my poems at Haiku North America events in Ottawa, Canada and Ogaki, Japan during my teaching career.

I sang Irish songs at a New Orleans café, folk rock songs at restaurants and roadside taverns in Louisiana. I sang Gregorian chant in an ancient mosque to an international group in the Gobi Desert while attending graduate school in Shanghai. I helped write the English script and read the part of a major character for an English language version of a feature length Chinese animation film, produced by Shanghai Animation Film Studio in 1986. It was later shown at a foreign film festival in Canada. I read original poems at various Tinian events at the Veterans Memorial Park, the Tinian public library, and at the opening of a runway at the Tinian airport. (in Chinese Putonghua at the airport by the way).

After retiring I volunteered and taught poetry workshops in public school and private school, some at the JKPL on Saipan. My students on Tinian and Saipan had their poems published over the years right here in the *Saipan Tribune*. I have been and am known and respected in many places I have called home. These include New York, Louisiana, Nevada, and here in the CNMI. One last thing the trolls don't know is that my sister and I are in interracial marriages. I have no respect for "white tyrants" and their sycophants. Nor for those demagogues and dictators that POTUS 45 respects and admires. This information is not for the pathetic trolls but for my beloved students *yan familia* on Tinian and Saipan.

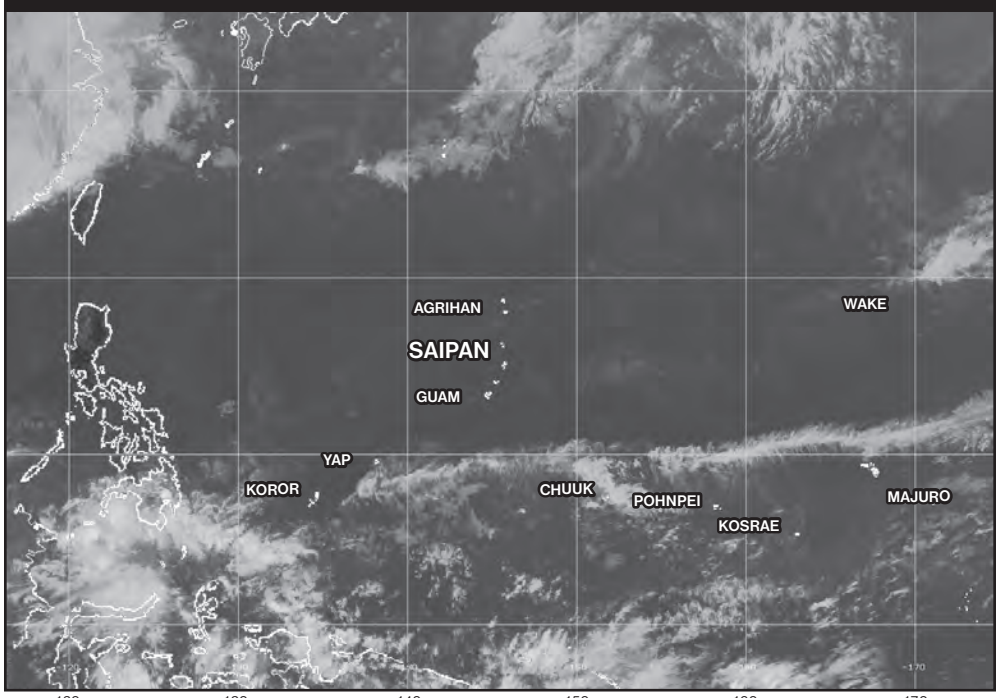
Sing a lullaby or read a poem with your family tonight. Peace in the Middle East and Ukraine.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.
87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:01 AM TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies with isolated showers and gentle to moderate trade winds prevail across the Marianas this morning. Altimetry shows seas between 4 and 6 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	89° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	86° / 79°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	83° / 78°
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 83°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	66° / 61°
Beijing	Fair	73° / 43°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°
Honolulu	Windy	83° / 72°
London	Thunderstorm	54° / 43°
Los Angeles	Clear	74° / 56°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	99° / 83°
Melbourne	Showers	52° / 50°
Miami	Thunderstorm	83° / 69°
New York	Cloudy	82° / 59°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	74° / 64°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	61° / 48°
Busan	Rain	55° / 46°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	70° / 55°
Salem	Rain	68° / 47°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	63° / 51°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	79° / 58°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	76° / 66°
Washington, DC	Fair	90° / 64°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:53 AM	6:34 PM
Thursday	5:53 AM	6:34 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Sunday	5:51 AM	6:35 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:22 AM	11:50 AM	-
Thursday	1:12 AM	12:50 PM	-
Friday	1:58 AM	1:49 PM	-
Saturday	2:41 AM	2:47 PM	-
Sunday	3:22 AM	3:45 PM	-

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:30 AM	High Tide	1.86
7:48 AM	Low Tide	1.48
11:39 AM	High Tide	1.69
7:35 PM	Low Tide	-0.02

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 28, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:10AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	6:10AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:35PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

ATKINS KROLL

During Atkins Kroll, Inc. Guam's 110th anniversary gala at the Dusit Thani Guam Resort last April 27, Inchcape Asia Pacific Region chief executive officer Ruslan Kinebas announced that the new Atkins Kroll branding will bring strong alignment with Inchcape as it expands further in the mobility space.

Atkins Kroll celebrates 110th anniversary milestone

» Company unveils new Inchcape corporate rebranding and mission for mobility

TAMUNING, Guam—Atkins Kroll, Inc. Guam, an Inchcape Company, celebrated its 110th anniversary on April 27, 2024, during a gala event at the Dusit Thani Guam Resort.

Inchcape chief executive officer, Asia Pacific Region, Ruslan Kinebas, and brand partners from Toyota Motor Corp., Toyota Tsusho Corp., Lexus, and BMW traveled to Guam to celebrate with Guam's oldest automotive dealership and meet with customers to thank them for their loyalty throughout the decades.

During the event, Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero presented Atkins Kroll with a Proclamation of the Governor, proclaiming April 27, 2024, in recognition of the 110th anniversary of Atkins Kroll and recognizing the company's longstanding commitment to Guam.

Leon Guerrero recognized Atkins Kroll as one of the oldest corporations in Guam—the first corporation to receive a business license—and remarked that Atkins Kroll transformed how island residents traveled from carabao carts to automobiles.

Speaker Therese Terlaje and senators of the 37th Guam Legislature presented Atkins Kroll with a legislative resolution recognizing the company's 110th anniversary and commending it for its contributions and continued commitment to serving the island community.

Alex Yap, president of Atkins Kroll, Inc. in Guam and Saipan, said, "We have a long and proud history with the people of Guam. As we celebrate 110 years of being a part of this wonderful community, we are even more committed to growing our business in Guam and Saipan. Atkins Kroll represents some of the most recognizable automotive brands in the world, including Toyota, Lexus, BMW, and Chevrolet. We also offer rental services through Toyota Rent a Car, Avis, Budget, Payless, and Chevy parts through our AC Delco business. Recently, we added Morrico Equipment Co., a locally established company representing reputable brand partners such as Freightliner, Hyundai Construction, Kohler, New Holland, and JLG."

ATKINS KROLL

Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, center, presented Atkins Kroll, Inc. with a Proclamation of the Governor, proclaiming April 27, 2024, in recognition of the 110th anniversary of Atkins Kroll and recognizing the company's longstanding commitment to Guam. To Leon Guerrero's right is Inchcape Asia Pacific Region chief executive officer Ruslan Kinebas, while to her left is Atkins Kroll, Inc. in Guam and Saipan president Alex Yap.

Atkins Kroll's history of Guam

Atkins Kroll's history dates back to 1906 when G.H. Atkins and Clifton Kroll established Atkins Kroll and Co., Ltd in San Francisco. 1914, the company expanded its operations to Guam and built its business until World War II. The company worked diligently to rebuild after the war, providing residents with career opportunities and helping rebuild Guam's economy. The Inchcape Group acquired Atkins, Kroll Co., Ltd., and its Pacific subsidiaries in 1974, and today, Atkins Kroll Inc. remains the most prominent auto distributor throughout the region. Other key milestones include the following:

- 1914 – Atkins Kroll was founded
- 1921 – Became a Chevrolet franchise
- 1960 – Established Saipan operation
- 1970 – Became a Toyota franchise
- 1974 – Inchcape acquired Atkins Kroll Inc.
- 1991 – Became Lexus franchise
- 1995 – Launched Tacoma pick-up truck
- 2018 – Became a BMW importer
- 2019 – Opened the BMW showroom
- 2021 – Unveiled the $1.3-million Lexus showroom
- 2021 – Acquired Morrico Equipment
- 2021 – Established Toyota dealership agreement with Surangel & Sons in Palau
- 2022 – Remodeled the Toyota showroom and service center. Opened a new parts warehouse facility. Acquired the Avis Budget Payless Franchise.
- 2022 – Received OSHA SHARP certification
- 2023 – Launched the BMW iX, Guam's first fully electric luxury vehicle
- 2024 – Celebrated 110 years in Guam

"We are proud of how we've grown our business and provide incredible career opportunities and advanced training in world-class facilities in Guam. Many of our colleagues have been with us for decades, and their children have come to work with us, too," Yap added. "We thank our dedicated colleagues and valued customers for their loyalty and support during the last 110 years. As we look ahead to the future, we are committed to working alongside fellow stakeholders to make Guam a better place."

ATKINS KROLL

VIPs pose with Atkins Kroll, Inc.'s 110th anniversary cake during the cake cutting ceremony.

New Inchcape corporate branding for Guam and Saipan launched

During the event, Atkins Kroll launched its refreshed corporate brand. Ruslan Kinebas, CEO of Inchcape Asia Pacific, parent company of Atkins Kroll, announced that the new Atkins Kroll branding will bring strong alignment with Inchcape as it expands further in the mobility space. He emphasized Inchcape's commitment to bringing mobility solutions to communities worldwide.

Kinebas said, "Along with brand partners and communities globally, Inchcape is focused on providing mobility solutions that enable people and goods to move through cities and communities more sustainably."

Kinebas gave examples of how the company plans to achieve this, such as making electric vehicles more accessible, partnering in charging infrastructure set-up, and expanding Inchcape's commercial and municipal vehicle businesses.

ATKINS KROLL

Inchcape Asia Pacific Region chief executive officer Ruslan Kinebas gives a thumbs up during Atkins Kroll, Inc. Guam's 110th anniversary gala at the Dusit Thani Guam Resort last April 27.

"We also acknowledge our capability and responsibility to enhance lives where we operate. We achieve this by investing in individuals and supporting organizations that do excellent work in the communities we serve," noted Kinebas.

Inchcape is the leading global automotive distributor operating in more than 40 markets. The global organization partners with over 40 of the most prestigious automotive brands to power better mobility today and in the future. Inchcape employs about 22,000 people worldwide.

Atkins Kroll shared that the new company logo reinvigorates the brand and company, while at the same time, reaffirms its commitment to Atkins Kroll's customers and the community who can continue to rely on the excellent level of service and quality as they have for generations.

The company announced that the rebranding will involve strengthening its ties with the community, pursuing its mission for excellence and responsibility, supporting economic growth, addressing climate change concerns, and creating a great workplace for its team to thrive and serve customers better. Additionally, Inchcape Atkins Kroll will continue to take pride in delivering exceptional performance for its partners and strive to establish stronger automotive brands.

Yap has stated, "With the support and global presence of our parent company, Inchcape, we are dedicated to expanding our businesses for the future and becoming even better partners to our community. We will continue to invest in our world-class facilities and our employees while providing our colleagues access to the latest technology and automotive innovations. That's the Inchcape difference." ***(PR)***

In Celebration of Her New Life

†Juana Cabrera Sablan Muna

Born on June 15, 1945
Called to her eternal rest on April 24, 2024 at the age of 78

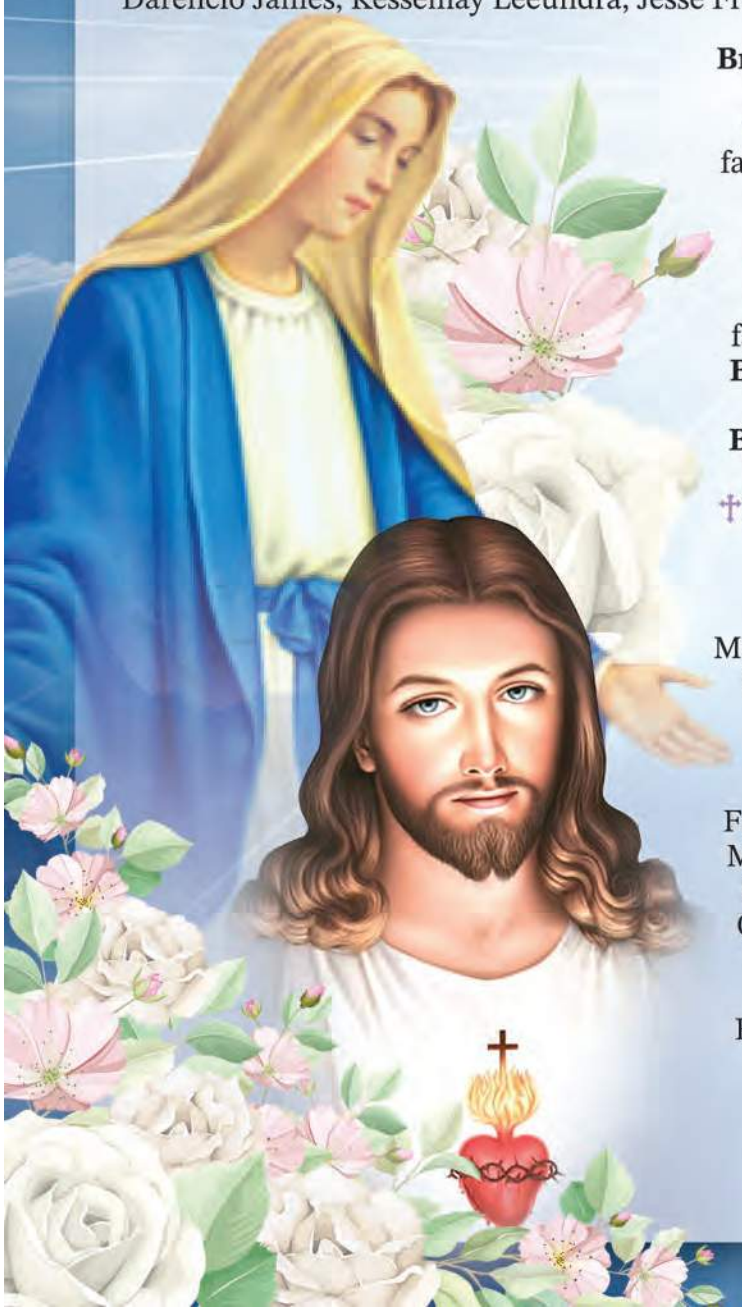
" In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." - 1 Thessalonians 5:18

In her new life, she now joins:
Parents: †Tomas Palacios Sablan & † Isabel Mendiola Cabrera Sablan
Mother/ Father in Law: †Sebastian Palacios Muna & †Rosa Sablan Tudela Muna (Nan Ocha')
Husband: †Daniel Tudela Muna

She is survived by her:
Children: Daniel S. Muna Jr./ Teresita, **Elisa M. Borja**/ Antonio (Abigail Stephanie, Rosalyn Remedio, Joanne Isabel, Kimberly Thundra May, & Antonio Jr), **Thomas S. Muna** (Thomas Sebastian/Michelle, Isabel Rosa M. Ulloa/ Eric, Tammie April, Christy Ann Joanna, Angela Branda/ Mayiah, Camille Heloann & Vincent Thomas), **Joy Tarla M. Taisague**/ Benjamin (Re'anica Jezniel & Tobias Daniel), & **Sebastian S. Muna**

Reared Children: Dennis L. Muna, Thomas Sebastian C. Muna, Brandon Jerard B. Indalecio Jr., & Laurina D. Sebaklim

Great Grandchildren: Matniel Danton, Danyana Sunshyne, Aiden Weischigh, Calvin Jay, Eli'analyn Faith, Jessundra Danielle, Darencio James, Kessemay Leeundra, Jesse Freddy, Thiam Takeo, Kazimier Lorenzo, Cecilia Rose, Eric Julian, & Edward James



Brothers/ Sisters & Spouses: †**Soledad S.**/ †Francisco Basa & family, †**Vicente Sablan**/ †Maria M. & family, †**Gregorio Sablan**/ †Victoria M. & family, †**Faustina S.**/ †Fernando Benavente & family, †**Ana S.**/ †Henry Indalecio & family, †**Jesus Sablan**/ Rita DLG. & family, **Natividad C. Sablan**/ Raphael Demapan & family, **Matilde S.**/ †Martin Taisacan & family, †**Manuel Sablan**/ †Consolacion C. & family, †**Rita S.**/ Rafael Mettao & family, †**Maria S.**/ †Juan Ada & family, †**Tomas Sablan**/ †Francisca M. & family, †**Maria DLR**/ Alfredo Gonzalez & family, †**Isabel S.**/ †Melchor Maratita & family, **Pedro Sablan**/ Ignacia M. & family, **Margarita S.**/ †Jose Castro & family, **Bernadita S.**/ †Isidro Cabrera & family, †**Joaquin Sablan**/ †Grace C. & family

Brothers/ Sisters InLaw & Spouses: †**Juana M.**/ †Jose A. Camacho & family/ †**Catalina M.**/ †Gregorio Borja & family, **Ann M.**/ Peter Taitano & family, †**Esteban T. Muna**/ †Maria S. & family, †**Miguel T. Muna**/ Milagro L. & family, †**Lorencio D. DLGuerrero**/ †Isabel C. & family

She is additionally survived by numerous nieces, nephews & friends.
Mass for the repose soul of †Juana is offered daily at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 am and at the San Vicente Church as follows: Mondays at 6pm, Tuesdays at 6am, Wednesdays at 6pm, Thursdays at 6am, Fridays at 6am, Saturdays at 5:30pm and Sundays at 6am & 9am.

Funeral services and last respects for our beloved †Juana will be held on Thursday, May 2, 2024, at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral beginning at 8:30am. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral followed by the Rite of Committal at the Sanctuario Pax behind Santa Soledad Church in Kagman where she will be laid to peaceful rest.

For all your love, prayers, thoughts, and kindness, Thank You and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

The Children and families of
†Daniel Tudela Muna and †Juana Cabrera Sablan Muna

Life & Style

Britney, Jamie Spears settlement avoids long, potentially ugly, revealing trial

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears and her father Jamie Spears will avoid what could have been a long, ugly and revealing trial with a settlement of the lingering issues in the court conservatorship that controlled her life and financial decisions for nearly 14 years.

A hearing on those issues—including a request from Jamie Spears for a broad ruling dismissing them—had been scheduled for Monday but was pulled from the court calendar after the settlement was approved by a judge on Friday.

AP

Jamie Spears, father of singer Britney Spears, leaves the Stanley Mosk Courthouse in Los Angeles on Oct. 24, 2012, left, and Britney Spears arrives at the Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas on May 17, 2015.

Britney Spears was taken out of the conservatorshi p in November 2021, after a pair of speeches she made to a judge turned what had been a growing public sentiment against it into a cause best known by the hashtag #FreeBritney.

But several elements remained and dragged on in court, including final payments to the attorneys who helped operate the conservatorship. Spears' attorney Mathew Rosengart had also sought a public reckoning over what he said was financial malfeasance by Jamie Spears and allegations of excessive surveillance of Spears.

All of that will now be dispensed with in the settlement whose terms were not disclosed in a series of filings last week, one of which said Jamie Spears had been "fully and finally discharged as Former Conservator of the Estate."

"Although the conservatorship was terminated in November, 2021, her wish for freedom is now truly complete," Rosengart said in a statement. "As she desired, her freedom now includes that she will no longer need to attend or be involved with court or entangled with legal proceedings in this matter. It has been our honor and privilege to represent, protect, and defend Britney Spears."

Judd speaks out on right of women to control their bodies, free from male violence

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Actor Ashley Judd, whose allegations against movie mogul Harvey Weinstein helped spark the #MeToo movement, spoke out Monday on the rights of women and girls to control their own bodies and be free from male violence.

A goodwill ambassador for the U.N. Population Fund, she addressed the U.N. General Assembly's commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the landmark document adopted by 179 countries at its 1994 conference in Cairo, which for the first time recognized that women have the right to control their reproductive and sexual health – and to choose if and when to become pregnant.

Judd called the program of action adopted in Cairo a "glorious, aspirational document" that has been "imprinted into my psyche … (and) has guided my 20 years of traveling the world, drawing needed attention to and uplifting sexual and reproductive health and rights in slums, brothels, refugee and IDP (internally displaced) camps, schools and drop-in centers."

The Cairo conference changed the focus of the U.N. Population Fund, known as UNFPA, from numerical targets to promoting choices for individual women and men, and supporting economic development and education for girls. Underlying the shift was research showing that educated women have smaller families.

While Cairo recognized sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights for women, it did not recognize sexual rights. That came a year later at the 1995 U.N. women's conference in Beijing.

AP

Ashley Judd speaks during an event on the White House complex in Washington, Tuesday, April 23, 2024.

On one of the most contentious issues at the Cairo conference, delegates recognized that unsafe abortion is a fact that governments must deal with as a public health issue to save women's lives. But it did not condone abortion as a method of family planning or mention legalization, and 30 year later the issue remains contentious.

Swift's 'The Tortured Poets Department' hits No. 1, with songs claiming top 14 spots

NEW YORK (AP)—Taylor Swift continues to dominate in the week following the release of her 11th album, "The Tortured Poets Department." The 31-track album has hit No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart, tying Swift with Jay-Z for second-most No. 1 albums at 14. Only The Beatles, with 19 No. 1 albums, have had more.

The double album has amassed 2.61 million equivalent album units, according to Luminate, the industry data and analytics company. A shocking 1.91 million of those units come from traditional album sales—people purchasing downloads, CDs, cassettes and vinyl. Vinyl accounts for 859,000 units sold, the highest number of vinyl sales in modern history.

It is the top-selling album of 2024, eclipsing Beyoncé's "Cowboy Carter," which sold 228,000 units. (But streaming was a boon: "Cowboy Carter" hit 407,000 equivalent album units, a combination of pure album sales and on-demand streams, earned in the U.S. in its first week.)

AP

This cover image released by Republic Records show "The Tortured Poets Department" by Taylor Swift.

"The Tortured Poets Department" hit 891.34 million album streams, according to Luminate, the biggest streaming week for an album in history.

Workplace crush leaves woman struggling to move forward

DEAR ABBY: I am a lesbian who recently experienced heartbreak by falling in love with my mentor and boss. I didn't want it to happen, but it did. The time we spent together was a balance of bliss and fear. My heart and soul feel that she feels the same way about me. I left my job because my feelings for her became so overwhelming, I could no longer cope.

She knows how I feel about her, and she has shown interest in me in the past. She is not gay, but I do know of straight women who have fallen in love with one woman in their lives. We have a 15-year age difference. That doesn't matter to me. I'm absolutely crazy about her. I dream about our Victorian home together and a beautiful garden and life. I want nothing else but to make her happy for the rest of her life, make her breakfast every morning and beautiful dinners every night.

We are no longer communicating, upon her request. I want to heal my heart and live my life. It's so hard to let go of her, but I know I should. On the other hand, something tells me I should wait for her. How can I move forward and find the love I deserve in this life?

CRUSHED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CRUSHED: If you really want to find the love you know you deserve, then you are going to have to find someone who is ready and willing to provide it. This person is not. She was interested in you only as a friend and an employee. Asking you to stop communicating with her was a strong message.

It may take time and even psychological counseling to help you disengage from your fantasy of an idealized life with this woman. But for the sake of your sanity, it's important that you try.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My son got his girlfriend pregnant. She already has a 7-year-old by another man. Her mother kicked her and the baby out right after the baby was born. She had no other place to go, so I had her, her child and my grandbaby stay with my husband and me. What a big mistake that was!

All we asked of her was to clean up a little bit around the house. She lives here rent-free. She buys her food and will cook sometimes for herself and her children, but she leaves the pots and pans and dishes for me to do. She won't lift a finger to do any other household chores. She works only part time, and I watch both kids when my son can't. Am I wrong to be angry that she won't help out?

DOING IT ALL IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR DOING IT: I'm glad you asked. This appears to be an example of "no good deed goes unpunished." That said, you are wrong to be angry at your son's girlfriend. You should be angry at yourself for tolerating her selfish behavior.

She AND YOUR SON should be working toward being independent. They are a family now. Lay down the law to your son and this young woman. Tell them EXACTLY what you expect of both of them -- and that if they don't comply, they will have to make other living arrangements. Then enforce the rules. If you do, you will be doing all of you a favor.

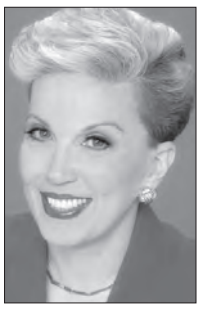
■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

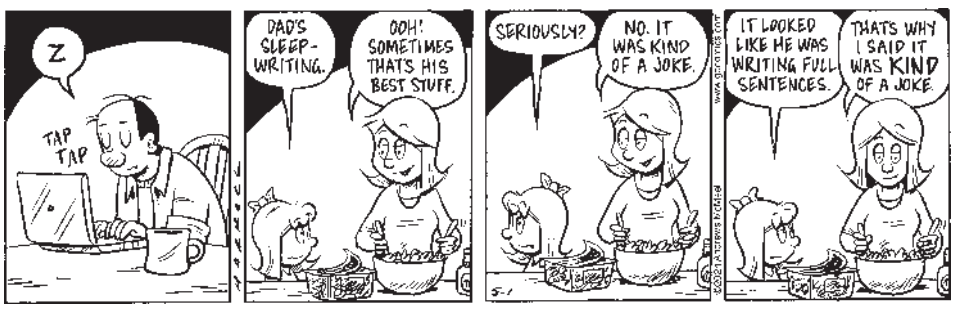
WHY DIDN'T YOU SIGN UP TO PLAY BASEBALL LIKE THE REST OF THE BOYS? DON'T YOU LIKE SPORTS?
I DUNNO. I'D JUST RATHER RUN AROUND.
I HATE ALL THE RULES AND ORGANIZATION AND TEAMS AND RANKS IN SPORTS.
SOMEBODY'S ALWAYS YELLING AT YOU, TELLING YOU WHERE TO BE, WHAT TO DO, AND WHEN TO DO IT.
I FIGURE WHEN I WANT THAT, I'LL JOIN THE ARMY AND AT LEAST GET PAID.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


Z
TAP TAP
DAD'S SLEEP-WRITING.
OOH! SOMETIMES THAT'S HIS BEST STUFF.
SERIOUSLY?
NO. IT WAS KIND OF A JOKE.
IT LOOKED LIKE HE WAS WRITING FULL SENTENCES.
THAT'S WHY I SAID IT WAS KIND OF A JOKE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I MADE UP A WORD THAT I'M HOPING GEN-Z WILL ADOPT SO I'LL FEEL RELEVANT. THE WORD IS 'GOOPER.' IT MEANS A DUMB PERSON WHOSE OPINION DOESN'T MATTER.
YOU CAN'T MAKE UP YOUR OWN WORD AND EXPECT IT TO SUDDENLY BECOME PART OF OUR VOCABULARY.
SPOKEN LIKE A GOOPER

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Sentry's cry
5 Switch positions
8 Herring's kin
12 "Lucky Jim" author
13 "Yo!"
14 Marathoner's tempo
15 Place of origin
17 Diminutive suffix
18 Mountain crest
19 Basketball position
21 Cheeky back talk
24 Dime portrait
25 Dull pain
28 Boost
30 "— showtime!"
33 Marseilles monarch
34 Mila of "Black Swan"
35 Spy org.
36 Director Lee
37 Coral formation
38 Fine
39 "Westworld" network
41 Lean and supple
43 Unbroken
46 Japanese seaport
50 "The Simpsons" bar
51 Mind-blowing experience
54 Curved lines
55 Half of bi-
56 "The Great" actress Fanning
57 Hawaiian fish, on menus
58 — Pérignon (French bubbly)
59 Aussie hoppers

DOWN
1 "Funny!"
2 Roman god of love
3 Rickey flavor
4 Dangerous fly
5 "So that's it!"
6 Up-to-date
7 Harmonization
8 Shell out
9 Hockey coup
10 Part of a French play
11 Woodland grazer
16 Earl Grey, e.g.
20 New newts
22 Pivot
23 Tendon
25 Parseghian of football
26 Swindle
27 Like the latest computing equipment
29 Poodle's name, perhaps
31 Aunt, in Acapulco
32 Utter
34 Ray of McDonald's
38 Pearl producer
40 Low voices
42 Scepter
43 Mosque VIP
44 Asta's feeder
45 Dull sound of impact
47 Woody Guthrie's son
48 Narc's measure
49 Tarzan's clique
52 Rock producer Brian
53 Goal

Solution time: 23 mins.

M	O	O	D		C	O	N		F	U	S	E
S	O	L	I		L	I	E		A	G	O	G
G	O	E	S	C	O	L	D		B	L	O	G
			H	O	G		R	A	R	I	T	Y
M	E	L	E	E		G	C	B	I			
A	C	F	S		W	F	A	F	C	O	O	I
I	R	F		T	F	N	F	T		D	N	A
L	U	K	E	W	A	R	M		P	E	E	K
			T	I	R	E		P	H	A	S	E
K	A	H	U	N	A		C	E	O			
L	E	A	D		W	H	I	T	E	H	O	T
U	R	G	L		A	U	G		B	A	N	L
M	O	S	S		Y	E	S		E	I	O	N

Yesterday's answer 5-1

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				16				■	17			
18				■	■	■	19	20				
■	■	■	21		22	23	■	24			■	■
25	26	27		■	28		29		■	30	31	32
33			■	34					■	35		
36			■	37				■	38			
■	■	39	40		■	41		42		■	■	■
43	44				45	■	■	46		47	48	49
50				■	51	52	53					
54					55			■	56			
57				■	58				59			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Wes Anderson, 55; Tim McGraw, 57; Joanna Lumley, 78; Judy Collins, 85.

Happy Birthday: Let your intuition guide you. Emotions will surface quickly; planning is necessary to avoid impulsive mistakes. Positive change and opportunities are apparent, and your integrity and insight will encourage stellar results. An energetic approach and allowing your creativity to take over will keep you at the forefront when you encounter a challenge. Believe in yourself, and so will others. Love and personal improvements are on the rise. Your numbers are 6, 13, 22, 24, 30, 38, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* A compromise will help speed things up. Hear what others say, and incorporate words of wisdom and ideas into your plans. Accepting input and help may not be easy for you, but in the end, it will save you time, energy and money. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't take on the impossible when chipping away at something doable will lead to better results. Protect your physical and emotional well-being by supporting a routine that offers exercise and relationship standards and boundaries. Change whatever isn't working for you. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Size up your situation, think and execute your plans behind closed doors. Giving yourself the space and convenience you require to do things properly is essential. Don't invite outside interference into matters that require undivided attention. Patience will lead to perfect timing. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* What you do will have an impact on others. Distance yourself from anyone pressuring you to contribute cash or time. Personal gain will come from doing for yourself and applying your skills to benefit you. Be innovative and discover an easy alternative that offers good results. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Negotiate on your behalf. Outside interference will set you back. Put your energy where it counts, and educate yourself before meetings that can influence your reputation, position or goals. A partnership appears problematic if you are trusting or eager to please. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Don't trouble the universe. Everything will flawlessly flow if you leave well enough alone and proceed with a positive attitude. Concentrate on learning, expanding your skills and making updates that ensure you take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way. Choose kindness over criticism. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You don't have to spend to have fun. Use your imagination to implement a plan that includes someone you enjoy being around. An activity that prompts a lifestyle change or home improvement will encourage you to pursue your dreams. Stop procrastinating. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Unusual people, places and pastimes will draw you. Learn from the experience, but refrain from buying into someone else's dream. Let what you discover pique your imagination, and you'll find the path that offers positive change, opportunities and new beginnings. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Pay attention and make revisions, and you'll lower your overhead. Home improvements you can do yourself will save you a bundle. Show patience with others; you'll receive respect and support when needed. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Make home your comfort zone. Rid yourself of complications. An emotional issue will substantially grow if you don't act fast. Get together with friends or colleagues who challenge and spark your imagination. The outcome of a conversation will take you on a worthwhile adventure. Romance is prominent. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* A transformation is in order, but first, ask questions, learn and be sure that whatever you do is for the right reason. Don't follow someone else or allow anyone to manipulate what you do next. Take the helm. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Dig in and get things done. Don't let money slip through your fingers. You can't buy love and shouldn't make a habit of paying for others. Your stability and security stem from changing situations that aren't ideal. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, stubborn and innovative. You are thorough and persuasive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			6				2	7
6	8					1	4	
		2	7	1		9	8	6
	9				8		1	
		1		2	6			
	4					6	5	
		9			2		6	
						4		5
				4	1		7	8

Difficulty: ★★★ 5/1

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	1	9	2	4	8	6	3	7
8	7	6	1	3	9	2	4	5
2	3	4	6	7	5	9	8	1
9	2	5	8	6	4	1	7	3
1	8	3	7	9	2	4	5	6
6	4	7	3	5	1	8	9	2
7	5	8	9	2	6	3	1	4
3	9	2	4	1	7	5	6	8
4	6	1	5	8	3	7	2	9

Difficulty: ★★ 4/30

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

CLARIFIED BUTTER Solution: 9 letters

S	M	O	O	T	H	T	S	A	F	K	A	E	R	B
T	T	N	I	O	P	E	K	O	M	S	B	E	O	O
R	H	I	B	U	B	B	L	E	A	M	O	R	A	I
A	E	D	R	I	Z	Z	L	E	I	I	D	U	S	L
I	R	E	H	F	O	A	M	L	L	E	U	T	T	G
N	M	G	E	C	R	M	K	S	T	T	Y	A	B	N
E	O	R	A	T	I	Y	O	A	E	Ⓜ	R	R	E	I
R	M	E	T	K	K	R	R	P	A	Ⓔ	T	E	E	T
G	E	E	S	L	G	T	O	E	R	Ⓛ	N	P	F	S
N	T	S	I	A	N	P	R	V	M	Ⓣ	A	M	E	A
I	E	S	N	E	C	C	F	A	A	O	P	E	L	L
K	R	I	C	O	O	K	I	E	S	L	V	T	D	G
O	C	N	R	E	T	S	B	O	L	T	F	A	A	N
O	O	N	O	O	P	S	U	O	I	C	S	U	L	O
C	O	N	D	E	N	S	E	D	D	I	U	Q	I	L

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Aroma, Boil, Breakfast, Bubble, Concentrated, Condensed, Cookies, Cooking, Creamy, Degrees, Drizzle, Flavor, Foam, Heat, Ladle, Liquid, Lobster, Long-lasting, Luscious, Melt, Milk, Oils, Organic, Pantry, Popcorn, Removal, Rich, Roast Beef, Silky, Skim, Smoke Point, Smooth, Spoon, Stir-fry, Strainer, Temperature, Thermometer

Yesterday's Answer: Braces

The NEW Wonderword Grand Millennium #1 in LARGE PRINT is now available at: www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Murray hits game-winner as Nuggets eliminate Lakers, 108-106

DENVER (AP)—Jamal Murray scored 32 points despite a strained calf and sank the game-winner with 3.6 seconds left as the defending NBA champion Denver Nuggets bounced LeBron James from the playoffs again with a 108-106 win over the Los Angeles Lakers in Game 5 Monday night.

James' two free throws tied it at 106 with 26 seconds left and the Nuggets, just as they did in Game 2, eschewed the timeout and Murray took the ball on a high screen and roll to his left, shaking Austin Reaves as he crossed through the lane and swished the 14-footer.

It was Murray's buzzer beater that also won Game 2.

"This one was a little better," Murray said as confetti swirled around him and his celebrating teammates.

Nuggets coach Michael Malone said he had "the utmost confidence" in Murray making the game-winner. "That's why I didn't call a timeout. Let the best two-game game in the business play their game and get to their spots."

Nikola Jokic, who committed an uncharacteristic seven turnovers, narrowly missed his 19th career playoff triple-double with 25 points, 20 rebounds and nine assists and Michael Porter Jr. scored 26.

James had 30 points and 11 assists and Davis had 17 points and 15 rebound but appeared bothered down the stretch after banging his left shoulder into MPJ in the second half.

The Nuggets advanced to face the Minnesota Timberwolves in the second round starting next weekend. That series starts in Denver, where the Nuggets are a Western Conference-best 36-8, including 3-0 in the playoffs.

Not that it's been easy.

The Nuggets trailed for about three-fourths of the minutes in this series, they scuffled through extended shooting slumps and they're a banged-up bunch that can definitely use the rest.

The Nuggets, who swept the Lakers in the Western Conference finals last summer on their way to winning the franchise's first NBA championship, beat the Lakers for the 12th time in their last 13 games.

The only other time James was eliminated in the first round of the playoffs came in 2021 when the Phoenix Suns beat L.A. in six games.

So, this was the shortest of James' 17 trips to the playoffs, where he's now 183-104 overall with a 41-13 series record and four titles.

After warming up with an ice pack on his injured calf, Murray got medical clearance to play. He wasn't his usual explosive self on drives to the basket—at first—but he managed 16 points in the first half, including 12 in the first quarter which ended with Denver ahead (28-24) for the first time all series.

The Lakers led 53-50 at halftime and pushed that advantage to nine points but the Nuggets closed on a 21-10 run to take an 81-79 lead into the fourth quarter that was tight until the buzzer.

Malone said it was an emotional scene before the game when he allowed Murray to play.

"He just told me, 'I'm glad I played because I don't know if we win if I don't play tonight.' I said, 'Well, that's the understatement of the year," Malone recounted. "That kid's a warrior, man. The bigger the moment, the kid just continues to shine."

Taurean Prince heaved up a contested half-courter that fell short as time expired, sending the Lakers to an early exit despite taking the defending champs to the brink in all five games.

AP

Denver Nuggets guard Jamal Murray, right, drives to the basket as Los Angeles Lakers guard Spencer Dinwiddie, left, defends in the first half of Game 5 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series Monday, April 29, 2024, in Denver.

"I couldn't be more proud of our crew despite everything that happened," Lakers coach Darvin Ham said. "Obviously, the series didn't go in our favor, didn't start the way we wanted it to, but to win that one at home, fight tooth and nail today to get this one, our guys showed a lot of guts and a lot of character and that resilience to continue to fight."

CELTICS 102, HEAT 88

MIAMI (AP)—Derrick White scored a career-high 38 points, Jayson Tatum added 20 points and 10 rebounds, and the Boston Celtics beat the Miami Heat 102-88 on Monday night to take a 3-1 lead in their Eastern Conference first-round series.

Jaylen Brown scored 17 points and Jrue Holiday had 11 for the top-seeded Celtics, who lost Kristaps Porzingis in the first half to what the team said was a right calf injury. Boston won at Miami for the sixth straight time and improved to 14-3 in their last 17 games on the Heat's home floor.

Bam Adebayo finished with 25 points, 17 rebounds and five assists for Miami, which had a sellout crowd — including Lionel Messi — but played again without injured starters Jimmy Butler (knee) and Terry Rozier (neck). The Heat managed only 84 points in Game 3 and struggled again on offense in Game 4. Tyler Herro scored 19 points and Caleb Martin had 18 for the eighth-seeded Heat.

The Celtics can advance to the second round on Wednesday when they host Game 5. The Boston-Miami winner will meet the Cleveland-Orlando winner in the East semifinals; that Cavaliers-Magic series won't end until at least Friday.

THUNDER 97, PELICANS 89

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Jalen Williams highlighted a 24-point performance with a back-breaking 3 with three minutes left, and Oklahoma City beat New Orleans Pelicans to complete a four-game sweep of their first-round playoff series.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 24 points and 10 rebounds for Oklahoma City, which trailed by five in the fourth quarter before suddenly seizing control with a combination of stifling defense and opportunistic shooting.

New Orleans led 80-75 and had a chance to take what would have been the biggest lead for either team when Jose Alvarado blocked Gilgeous-Alexander and sent CJ McCollum the other way on a two-on-one break.

McCollum could not convert at the rim, however. Soon after, Chet Holmgren's putback and Josh Giddey's 3 tied it at 80 and ignited a decisive 18-2 run, capped by Williams' second-chance 3, that put the Thunder up 93-82 with 3:08 left.

New Orleans, which played the entire series without star power forward Zion Williamson, never recovered.

Giddey and Holmgren each scored 14 points. Holmgren also had nine rebounds.

McCollum scored 20 for New Orleans, which continued to be plagued by poor 3-point shooting. The Pelicans hit just eight of 34 shots from deep (23.5%).

Suns built a superteam with Durant, Booker and Beal. It produced zero playoff wins

PHOENIX (AP)—The Phoenix Suns thought they had built a formidable superteam during the offseason by adding three-time All-Star Bradley Beal to form a star-studded trio with Kevin Durant and Devin Booker.

It looked great on paper. It added up to exactly zero playoff wins.

The Suns were knocked out of the playoffs Sunday night after a 122-116 loss to the Minnesota Timberwolves, despite a 49-point effort from Booker and 33 points from Durant. The four-game sweep was a gut punch for a team that entered the season with championship aspirations.

Now the Suns have to decide whether to blow up the roster or run it back. Booker—who led the Suns to the Finals in 2021 before losing to the Bucks in six games—sounded as though he votes for the latter.

"It's a tough league," Booker said. "At the end of all this, there's only going to be one winner. Everybody that doesn't win is going to go into somewhat of a panic mode and feel like they have to make changes—do this and do that.

"But I think, over time, experience is the best teacher. The more you can spend time and feel this hurt together, go through it together, the better off you are in the future."

Sticking together might be the only real choice the Suns have.

Phoenix general manager James Jones doesn't have much room to maneuver under the league's salary cap unless major changes are made. Durant, Booker and Beal all have big salaries and Grayson Allen just received a $70 million, four-year extension.

Allen led the league in 3-point shooting percentage this season and averaged a career-high 13.8 points per game, but suffered a sprained ankle in Game 1 against the Wolves and wasn't able to contribute much.

The biggest question revolves around the future of first-year coach Frank Vogel, who struggled to turn this Suns team into a consistent winner. Owner Mat Ishbia has been unafraid to make big changes during his first 18 months.

But Vogel said on Sunday he expects to be back for a second season.

"I've got the full support of Mat Ishbia," he said before Game 4.

To be fair, Vogel was given a tough assignment thanks to questionable roster construction. The Suns didn't have a true point guard—asking Booker and Beal to handle that responsibility—and the team struggled all year with turnovers.

Beal was also hurt for a big chunk of the first half of the season, costing valuable time as the team tried to learn to play together.

The 35-year-old Durant continued to defy Father Time with another stellar season, averaging more than 27 points per game. He's one of the most prolific scorers in NBA history, but it's also fair to wonder how long he can play at this elite level.

Booker and Durant are among the 12 players who will represent the U.S. in the Paris Olympics this summer.

"You reflect back on the season, we were just inconsistent with our play and the style of play that we wanted," Durant said. "But I think guys will dig deep this summer, work on what they need to work on individually, the coaches will make adjustments because we've got stuff on film from all season on who we can be."

Abrams leads Nationals to a sweep of the Marlins

MIAMI (AP)—CJ Abrams hit a two-run homer and the Washington Nationals beat the Miami Marlins 7-2 on Monday night, completing a four-game sweep of the NL's worst club in front of a season-low 6,376 fans at loanDepot Park.

The Marlins (6-24), who made the playoffs last season, have lost seven straight, their worst skid since opening the season 0-9.

Jake Irvin (2-2) allowed two runs on four hits in six innings, bouncing back from allowing 12 hits and six runs to the Los Angeles Dodgers in his previous start.

Ildemaro Vargas had two hits and an RBI for the Nationals, who swept Miami over four games for the first time since Sept. 18-21, 2014.

Marlins shortstop Tim Anderson exited after the third inning because of a mild left thumb sprain. Anderson and Call collided at second base when Call successfully slid into the bag for his double.

AP

Washington Nationals' Jacob Young hits a single during the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Miami Marlins, Monday, April 29, 2024, in Miami.

ORIOLES 2, YANKEES 0

BALTIMORE (AP)—Gunnar Henderson homered to lead off the first inning and Baltimore defeated New York Yankees in the opener of a four-game series.

Grayson Rodriguez threw 5 2/3 shutout innings for Baltimore, which won the first meeting of the season between the top two teams in the AL East.

New York left 10 men on base and was 0 for 8 with runners in scoring position.

After fouling off the previous three pitches, Henderson lined a 2-2 knuckle-curve over the wall in right off Clarke Schmidt (2-1). It was Henderson's 10th homer, tying the Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout for the major league lead.

It was enough of a cushion for Rodriguez (4-1), who matched a career high with 101 pitches while allowing at least one runner in each inning he worked. He allowed five hits and three walks while striking out three.

Rodriguez has not allowed a run in 12 career innings against the Yankees.

CUBS 3, METS 1

NEW YORK (AP)—Christopher Morel hit a two-run homer off Edwin Díaz to snap a ninth-inning tie and Chicago Cubs beat the New York Mets after being held hitless by Luis Severino into the eighth.

Dansby Swanson singled off Severino with nobody out in the eighth for Chicago's first hit, putting runners at first and second following a leadoff walk to Michael Busch.

With runners at the corners and one out, pinch-hitter Nick Madrigal hit a broken-bat grounder to third baseman Joey Wendle, who had just entered for defense. Wendle easily could have thrown out Busch at the plate, cutting off the tying run. Instead, the veteran infielder made an ill-advised decision to try for an inning-ending double play. Madrigal beat the relay to first and the Cubs evened it 1-all.

Brandon Nimmo hit his 13th career leadoff homer for the Mets, but Jameson Taillon shut them down after that in a fast-moving pitchers' duel that zipped by at a breakneck pace.

Taillon allowed four hits in 7 1/3 innings, throwing 57 of his 78 pitches for strikes.

Mark Leiter Jr. (1-1) got two outs for the win, and Héctor Neris worked around two walks in the ninth for his fourth save. With two runners aboard, he struck out pinch-hitters DJ Stewart and Brett Baty to end a game that took just 2 hours, 5 minutes.

Mike Tauchman doubled off Díaz (0-1) with one out in the ninth. One out later, Morel drove a 3-1 fastball to left-center for his fourth home run.

BLUE JAYS 6, ROYALS 5

TORONTO (AP)—Justin Turner hit two home runs, Danny Jansen added a solo homer and Toronto held on to beat Kansas City.

Turner hit a two-run home run in the first inning and had a leadoff homer in the third. It was the 16th multihomer game of his career.

Jansen also connected in the third, his second.

The Blue Jays scored more than five runs for the first time in 21 games, ending a streak that dated back to a 9-8 loss at Yankee Stadium on April 6.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and Davis Schneider each drove in a run as Toronto won back-to-back games after losing the previous five.

Royals catcher Salvador Perez was scratched from the starting lineup because of a tight back but delivered a pinch-hit single with two out in the ninth. Dairon Blanco ran for Perez, who hit for DH Nelson Velázquez

RAYS 1, BREWERS 0

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Ryan Pepiot and three relievers combined on a three-hit shutout and Tampa Bay withstood a ninth-inning comeback attempt to beat Milwaukee.

Brewers manager Pat Murphy was ejected in the ninth inning after arguing a call that prevented Milwaukee from scoring the apparent tying run.

The Brewers had runners on second and third with one out when a potential third strike to Jake Bauers got past catcher Ben Rortvedt for a wild pitch, enabling Bauers to reach first while Sal Frelick came home. But plate umpire Ryan Additon ruled Bauers had hit Rortvedt on the backswing, resulting in Bauers getting called out while Frelick had to stay at third.

After Jason Adam hit Rhys Hoskins with a pitch to load the bases, he struck out Blake Perkins to end the game and earn his first save in two opportunities.

It was the second day in a row a controversial ruling went against the Brewers in a game they lost. After the Brewers fell 15-5 to the New York Yankees on Sunday, crew chief Andy Fletcher acknowledged Aaron Judge should have been called for interference for his slide on a botched double-play attempt that sparked New York's seven-run tiebreaking rally in the sixth inning.

TWINS 3, WHITE SOX 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Max Kepler had a tiebreaking RBI single in the ninth inning, and the Minnesota Twins beat the Chicago White Sox 3-2 on Monday night for their eighth straight win.

Byron Buxton doubled to lead off the ninth against John Brebbia (0-1). Kepler, who entered the game as a pinch-hitter in the sixth, then drove him in with a line-drive single to right.

Caleb Thielbar pitched out of a first-and-third jam in the ninth, striking out Korey Lee to end the game after walking Tommy Pham and giving up a two-out single to Robbie Grossman.

Joe Ryan threw six solid innings for the Twins. Coming off a win against the White Sox last week at Target Field, he gave up two runs and six hits.

Garrett Crochet pitched five innings for the White Sox, allowing two runs and five hits after dropping his previous three starts. The left-hander struck out seven and walked one.

ATHLETICS 5, PIRATES 1

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Tyler Nevin homered for the second straight game and Oakland beat Pittsburgh.

Nevin added a single and a sacrifice fly as the A's won for the fourth time in their last five games.

The Pirates had a season-low two hits while losing for the fifth time in six games.

Pittsburgh's first game in Oakland since 2016 was played in front of 3,528 fans. The Athletics have announced plans to play at least the next three seasons in Sacramento while their new stadium in Las Vegas is built.

Oakland starter Joe Boyle (2-4) struggled with his command, throwing just 45 of his 91 pitches for strikes, but the right-hander limited Pittsburgh to one run and one hit in five innings with four strikeouts and four walks.

MARINERS 2, BRAVES 1

SEATTLE (AP)—Mitch Garver hit a two-run game-ending home run in the ninth inning to give Seattle a walk-off win over the Atlanta Braves on Monday night.

A game that was dominated by spectacular pitching from Atlanta starter Max Fried and Seattle starter Bryce Miller ended with Garver tossing his bat in front of home plate to celebrate the first walk-off home run of his career.

Jorge Polanco led off the ninth inning with a single on the first pitch from A.J. Minter. Garver worked the count to 3-2 and hit a cutter left in the middle of the plate by Minter (5-2) out to left field for his third homer of the season.

The late dramatics for Seattle took some of the spotlight away from the pitching efforts from Fried and Miler, both of whom pitched six no-hit innings.

REDS 5, PADRES 2

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Elly De La Cruz's 443-foot home run into the bullpen sent a few Padres relievers scrambling out of the way, and Nick Lodolo combined with two relievers on a four-hitter and struck out 11 as the Cincinnati Reds beat San Diego 5-2 on Monday night.

The Reds retired 23 straight batters from the second inning into the ninth and had a combined one-hitter going into the final frame.

Lodolo (3-0) retired his final 18 batters after issuing consecutive walks to open the second inning. Fernando Cruz pitched a perfect eighth and Alex Díaz retired the first two batters of the ninth before Jake Cronenworth doubled and scored on Manny Machado's single.

The Padres have lost a season-high five games, a streak that started Thursday when they blew a 9-4 lead in the eighth inning at Colorado and lost 10-9. They were swept during the weekend by the Philadelphia Phillies, who hit nine home runs.

DODGERS 8, DIAMONDBACKS 4

PHOENIX (AP)—Teoscar Hernández and Andy Pages both hit two-run doubles in a big fifth inning, Will Smith added a solo homer and Los Angeles Dodgers beat Arizona.

Pages finished with three RBIs, the second time he had that many in 12 career games. The 23-year-old rookie pushed his hitting streak to seven games and is batting .298 with an .846 OPS since his big league debut on April 16.

Shohei Ohtani had two singles, a walk and an RBI for the Dodgers, who have won seven of their past eight.

Arizona cut the margin to 6-4 in the fifth. Eugenio Suárez had an RBI single, Randal Grichuk hit a sacrifice fly and Lourdes Gurriel Jr. came home on a wild pitch.

ANGELS 6, PHILLIES 5

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Ehire Adrianza and Mike Trout scored on a wild pitch and throwing error in the seventh inning as the Los Angeles Angels rallied from an early three-run deficit to beat Philadelphia and snap a four-game losing streak.

Adrianza had two hits and drove in a run, and Jo Adell homered as the Angels won on manager Ron Washington's 72nd birthday.

Alec Bohm extended his hitting streak to 13 games and drove in three runs for the Phillies, who snapped their five-game winning streak.

Five Angels' pitchers held the Phillies to six hits, but also walked nine. Adam Cimber (2-0) got out of a bases-loaded jam in the seventh when he got Brandon Marsh to ground out to end the inning.

Carlos Estévez picked up his fifth save in six opportunities despite allowing one run in the ninth. Trea Turner scored on Bohm's sacrifice fly, but Estévez struck out Marsh for the final out with the tying run at second.

Chamber announces winners of golf tourney

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to announce Nick Sablan Jr. as the winner of the hole-in-one contest during the Chamber of Commerce 15th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament on April 27, 2024. Sablan showcased remarkable golf skills by achieving a hole-in-one on hole No. 13, which posed a challenging distance of 180 yards. As a recognition of his exceptional achievement, Sablan won a brand new 2024 Nissan Versa SR sponsored by Joeten Motors, along with a $10,000 cash prize sponsored by TurnKey Solutions.

The Chamber extends congratulations to winners in various categories of the tournament. Anthony Tomokane and Alvin Salas secured first place in the double peoria category, earning an $800 cash prize. Eric Lisua and Ben Pelisamen claimed second place, winning $650, while Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho and Xerxes Camacho secured third place, receiving $500. In the low gross category, Joey Dela Cruz and J.J. Atalig clinched first place, earning $800, followed by Peter "Dung" Tenorio and Brian Camacho in second place with $650 and Dominic Kieffer and Zhimin Jin in third place with $500.

Moreover, Anthony Tomokane excelled in the accurate drive category, while Dennis Cruz, Amier Younis, Paul Reyes, and J.J. Atalig showcased outstanding performances in the closest to oin contests on holes No. 3, No. 7, No. 13, and No. 17 respectively, each awarded a $150 cash prize.

The tournament witnessed a remarkable turnout of dedicated golfers, whose participation and support have greatly contributed to the SCC's scholarship initiatives. The tournament provided an opportunity for players to showcase their golf skills while contributing to a noble cause—providing educational opportunities for the youth of the CNMI.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Anthony Tomokane and Alvin Salas Atalig finished first place in the double peoria category of the Chamber of Commerce 15th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament on April 27, 2024 at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joey Dela Cruz and J.J. Atalig finished first place in the low gross category of the Chamber of Commerce 15th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament on April 27, 2024 at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

"We are most especially thankful for the support of Franco Santos and Ben Babauta as the golf consultants of the tournament, our volunteers for the day that included high school students, college students, Chamber members, and members of our community who took time out of their day to help with the success of our event. A special thanks to Laolao Bay Golf & Resort staff for all their accommodations in the coordination of our tournament and lastly to the Chamber board of directors for their unwavering support, and especially to my team, Riley Buenaventura and Jaime Itibus, as well as our PSS co-op students, Miracle Aldan, Jazabelle Sumor, and James Castro, who all devoted many after hours to coordinating the tournament and ensuring all our golfers and guests were taken cared of. We look forward to another successful tournament next year," said Chamber executive director Kim Camacho.

The success of the event would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors. The Chamber extends its gratitude to all the sponsors who contributed to making this year's tournament a resounding success: Hole-in-one sponsors—Hafa Adai Rent-a-Car/Joeten Motors, Island Training Solutions, Shirley Sablan/Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, TurnKey Solutions, Top Shelf Wine & Spirits; Gold sponsors— TakeCare Insurance Inc., TSL Foundation Silver Sponsors: Assurance Brokers, Inc. (Saipan) dba AB Risk Solutions, Bank of Guam, Triple J Saipan, Inc., Laolao Bay Golf & Resort; Bronze sponsors—Century Insurance Company, First Hawaiian Bank, KKMP, KWAW, Latte Built Fitness, Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc., Pacific Health Inc. dba PHI Pharmacy, *Saipan Tribune*; Event sponsors—AP Group LLC, Cargo Express (Saipan) Inc., Herman's Bakery, Law Office of Stephen Nutting, LSG Lufthansa Services, Inc. Saipan, *Marianas Business Journal*, Marianas Business Plaza, LLC, *Marianas Variety*, Northern Marianas College, Northern Marianas Technical Institute, Saipan Laulau Development, Inc., Saipan Shipping Company, Inc.; and Raffle sponsors— Borderline & Allstar, Caravan of Food, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd., Godfather's Bar & Restaurant, IT&E, Let's Go Tour Company, Micronesia Resort Incorporation (MRI), MP Holdings, Naked Fish Bar & Grill, and Union of Professionals Corp.

For further inquiries or information about the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and its future events, visit its website at www.saipanchamber.com or contact our office at contactus@saipanchamber.com.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower our enterprises as a resource, advocate, and connector for Saipan's private sector. Its vision is to create an island where businesses, families, and communities succeed as one. For more information or to learn how to become a Chamber Member, visit online at www.saipanchamber.com, call (670) 234-7150, or visit the 2nd Floor of the Marianas Business Plaza (Suite 201-A). ***(PR)***

LADY

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defense as they went scoreless in four innings. Only five hits were registered against Deleon Guerrero, who was dominant on the mound.

The Lady Blue Jays got to work in the batter's box and scored one in the second from a run by Cassie Camacho, then two more runs scored in the third from Kianu Aldan and Kiana "Baby K" Camacho, for a 3-0 lead.

BDE then got to swinging in the fifth and scored two runs to cut the lead by one, 2-3, but the Lady Blue Jays tacked on two more runs for a 5-2 game.

The Lady Blue Jays' Britney Gopez then scored a much-needed run to lead, 6-2, but the rallying BDE brought home three for a close 5-6 game. The Top 3 in their lineup—Iggy Teliu, Oly Fritz, and Kona Tudela—scored, but they were then shut down by Deleon Guerrero.

In the last inning, the Lady Blue Jays scored just one more run which was enough to seal the win, as Deleon Guerrero held down BDE in order in their last at-bat.

With Deleon Guerrero and Camacho in the Lady Blue Jays are Destiny Pangelinan, Rita Villagomez, Kianu Aldan, Christy Aldan, Rayna Deleon Guerrero, Keolani Rios, Alannah Sablan, Cassie Camacho, Cindy Serrano, Brittney Gopez, and Carey Demapan.

Coach Camacho said in an interview after the game that their win was "a very overwhelming surprise. I thank my team and sponsors for bringing us together to play one more time."

With some losses in the regular season, it broke their undefeated bid that they had from the 2023 season. Camacho said it was because there was a higher level of competition this year. "Some teams mixed together with other teams that brought them better players with more confidence," he said. Along with that, they had some new players and he said, "We lost a couple but I just told the girls to stick together and do the best we can this season."

As for their undefeated finals win, he said, "we just practiced hard. I told the girls to just keep committed and come to the game and perform their best."

Results of the season's individual awards will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

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Tenorio are tied with three.

On the mound, Jose Lizama Jr. of the Bandits, Mike Iguel of Sandlot, and Jun Atalig of D-9er's all boast a 0 earned run average, a record of one win and no loss, and 0 earned runs. Lizama has three hits against him in 6.1 innings, while Mike has three hits in five innings, and Atalig has six hits in four innings.

The most strikeouts registered is 12 by Jylon Sablan; Tyrese Camacho is at nine; Austin Masga, Gloyd Marting, R.J. Riungel, and Jun Atalig have eight each; Gino Dela Cruz is at six; and J.J. Takawo and Lizama are at five each.

LEIGH GASES

From right, coach Jeff Race, first place in the boys 12 division Cody Park, runner-up Michael Jeon, and Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan general manager Clayton Darlington pose for a photo during the awards ceremony of the 2024 Crowne Plaza CNMI Junior Championship after their finals last Sunday at the American Memorial Park.

LEIGH GASES

From right, coach Jeff Race, first place in the girls 12 division Scarlett Loken, runner-up Selina Chi, and Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan general manager Clayton Darlington pose for a photo during the awards ceremony of the 2024 Crowne Plaza CNMI Junior Championship after their finals last Sunday at the American Memorial Park.

EMMA

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a dominating, 6-3, 6-2 win last Saturday.

In the girls 12, Scarlett Loken topped two others in their division. She first defeated Evan Shin, 6-1, 6-0, last April 20, and won over Selina Chi, 4-6, 6-1, 10-6, last Sunday.

For the doubles division in the boys 18, Henry Choi and Siwoo Lee won via walkover against June Yu and Nason Wessel. In the girls 18, sister duo Serin and Irin Chung won both their matches and won first place over Lina Tsukagoshi and Hoo Wang.

In the boys 12 doubles, Daniel Kang and Seungwoo Lee triumphed over Cody and Kijoon Park, 6-3, 6-1, to win first place; in the girls 14 doubles, the duo of Amy and Pascual won first place over Chi and Vivian; and in the U10 coed division, Evan Zhang came in first after he won all three of his matches.

For 10-year-old Lang, she said of her finals matchup, "It was a really tough match. I think the other player did really well but I just tried my best." As for the tournament, the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School student said, "overall the tournament was really fun but it was also really tiring."

As for 12-year-old Cody, he said the competition was intense. "It was the most intense match because there were a lot of deuces and I was really tired," he said. In the finals, the Grace Christian Academy student said it went to a lot of deuces and it took almost three hours to finish.

For 12-year-old Loken, she said her finals matchup was good. "I was really nervous that I wasn't going to win because in the first set I slacked off a little bit so it had to go to a super tie breaker," she said. On how she eventually won, the Saipan International School student said, "I was just confident with my shots and whenever nervousness tried to creep in, I just pushed it away."

The 2024 Crowne Plaza CNMI Junior Championship was organized by the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association. It was held over two weekends—last April 20-21 and last April 27-28.

Murray hits game-winner as Nuggets eliminate Lakers, 108-106

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Lady Blue Jays soar to 3-peat

LEIGH GASES
The Lady Blue Jays team poses for a photo with their championship trophy during the awards ceremony of the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Lady Blue Jays flew to the softball title for the third time in a row after shutting down BDE, 7-5, in the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association women's division finals last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

Under the same manager, Froilan Camacho, the team, formerly known as the Queen of Diamonds in the 2022 season, has won the championship three times now.

Despite a slightly new roster this season, the team kept afloat and reached the finals against a formidable BDE team.

Lady Blue Jays pitcher Angel Deleon Guerrero and her defense silenced a fiery BDE lineup in their best-of-3 championship matchup. They won their first game, 7-4, last April 21, and secured the championship with their Game 2 win last Sunday.

In their final game last Sunday, BDE's bats couldn't find holes in Lady Blue Jays'

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Emma, Matthew top girls/boys 14; Scarlett, Cody 1st in girls/boys 12

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

LEIGH GASES
From right, coach Jeff Race, first place in the girls 14 division Emma Lang, runner-up Vivian Chung, and Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan general manager Clayton Darlington pose for a photo during the awards ceremony of the 2024 Crowne Plaza CNMI Junior Championship after their finals last Sunday at the American Memorial Park.

Emma Lang and Matthew Hwang topped the girls/boys 14 division, while Scarlett Loken and Cody Park was first in the girls/boys 12 in the 2024 Crowne Plaza CNMI Junior Championship after their finals last weekend at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

It was a four-person division in the girls 14, so it was a round-robin format and Lang won all her matches. She went undefeated with three wins and won her final game against Amy Park, in a tough three set matchup, 6-2, 1-6, 10-3, last Sunday.

Lang defeated Jenna Pascual, in a long match, 7-5, 2-6, 14-12, last Saturday, and the top seed beat Vivian Chung, 7-5, 6-2, last April 20.

In the boys 14, there were only three players, with Hwang getting the win over Jebro Leon, 6-0, 6-2, last Sunday. Before that, Hwang had a walkover in his first match over Ian Chae.

No. 1 seed Cody in the boys 12, blasted past No. 2 Michael Jeon, 7-5, 6-2, last Sunday. In his semis match against Seungwoo Lee, Cody solidified his finals spot with

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Four tied for batting leader, 3 pitchers tied

LEIGH GASES
Bandits pitcher Jose Lizama Jr. in action during one of their games in the 2024 Tan Holdings-SBL season at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Baseball Field.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Four sluggers are tied in the batting category, while three pitchers are tied in the 2024 Tan Holdings-SBL standings as of April 25.

Darren Pua of the Falcons, Franko Nakamura of the Bandits, J.J. Lifoifoi of the Falcons, and Poland Masaharu of the Cardinals are tied atop the batting standings with a .750 average each from three hits in three at-bats.

Lamarc Iguel scored the most runs with seven; Kimo Angailen is next at six; Larson Sibetang is at four; and nine other players are tied with three.

In the doubles category, Harry Nakamura has the most with two, while 14 players are tied with one.

Only Nico Martin has hit a triple so far with one. As for home runs, only Eli Aughenbaugh and Ton Tenorio have hit a piece.

The most RBIs is Byron Kaipat with six, and Darrion Jones, Lifoifoi, Iguel, and

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